BAY-GUARDIAN

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FIZZLING ENERGY

Political stalemate blocks CleanPowerSF P12

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Wet the Hippo brings its weird, wild show P36

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INTELLIGENCE











DIGITAL DRAMA

While Ashton Kutcher lingers in the cinema as that Apple dude with the mock turtleneck in Jobs, local theater group PlayGround is preparing to dramatize another pioneer of customized bits and bytes, starting Oct. 10. "First," written by Evelyn Jean Pine, takes a looks at 20-year-old Bill Gates, launching his empire and ruffling nerd feathers at the first personal computing conference in 1976 — by demanding that people stop sharing his software. Can actor Jeremy Kahn infuse Mr. Microsoft with a little more stage presence? www.firsttheplay.com



CHUY OUT

Beloved KMEL radio morning host **Chuy Gomez**, a longtime champion of local hip-hop and an enormous personality to boot, parted ways suddenly with the Clear Channel station last week, after 20 years. The cause was rumored at press time to be a budget issue. (Clear Channel would NEVER do anything evil, of course.) Outraged fans took to the Internet; Chuy was coy about his next move. Some found succor, however, in the fact that Chuy's supposed replacement, Sana G, is pretty chill.



TRANSGENDER STUDENTS WIN

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation on Aug. 12 to create a state law protecting transgender students' access to educational programs and facilities. The background is that a transgender student from Arcadia won a federal complaint after the school district failed to provide him access to boys' facilities at his school. Authored by Assemblymember Tom Ammiano, Bill 1266 seeks to avoid similar lawsuits in the future. "The gender identity of these kids needs to be respected," Ammiano said. "They shouldn't have to sue to make it happen."



BUILDING A BRIDGE

The Bay Bridge will be closed for five days, Aug. 28-Sept. 2, while the new eastern span is prepared for opening, slated for 5am, on Tue, Sept. 3. (That may snarl up some Burning Man return plans, but BART will run 'round the clock for those left here.) Meanwhile, for a closer look at who built the troubled eastern span, and how, "The Bridge Builders," a striking photography exhibit by Joe Blum, documents the worker sweat and big machines at City Hall through Sept. 27. www.sfartscommission.org

WAX NOSTALGIC

The family-run Wax Museum at Fisherman's Wharf closed last week, after 50 years in business. It's been campy staple of the waterfront since 1963, with waxy replicas of artists like Salvador Dali. presidential and historical figures, movie stars, and those in the chamber of horrors like Elvira (pictured, with Elvira). Merlin Entertainment has signed a lease with the Wax Museum to open both a Madame Tussauds San Francisco "wax attraction" and the San Francisco Dungeon at Fisherman's Wharf, both of which are slated to open in summer 2014. "It's hard not to wax nostalgic about our half-century mark," Rodney Fong, of the Fong family ownership, said in a press release. "Now, the wax mold is being passed to a new generation."

POLITICAL ALERTS

WEDNESDAY 21

BREAKING NEWS: THE FUTURE OF OPEN NEWS AND LOCAL STORYTELLING

Hub Media Lab, The San Francisco Chronicle Building, 925 Mission, SF. Hubmedialabsf.com. 6:30pm, \$15. Local news outlets and mobile app founders will discuss the future of news distribution in the Bay Area in the context of maintaining an informed citizenry. Panelists will include Lydia Chavez, Founder of Mission Local; Laura Ramos, Executive Producer of The Bold Italic; Michael Coren, Co-founder of Publet and Burt Herman, Co-Founder of Storify.

FRIDAY 23

EGYPT: A REVOLUTION IN CRISIS

2969 Mission, SF. www.answersf.org. 7pm, \$5 – \$10. Since the Egyptian Revolution began in January 2011, hundreds have been killed and thousands more wounded. The Egyptian military seized power on July 3, following massive protests against the government of Mohammad Morsi. What do these developments mean for the future of Egypt and the broader region? What is the role of the U.S.? Panelists include Omar Ali, and Egyptian-American activists with ANSWER, and Mazda Majidi, co-author of Socialists & War.

SATURDAY 24

WOMEN'S RIGHTS DAY:

A TRIBUTE TO IMMIGRANT WOMEN
New Valencia Hall, 747 Polk, SF. www.
radicalwomen.org. 7:30-9:30pm, \$3.
This tribute to immigrant women will
feature a screening of the documentary "Rape in the Fields," unmasking
the sexual violence against female
agricultural workers. Hear from guest
speaker, former farm worker and Los
Angeles Radical Women member
Yolanda Alaniz, co-author of Viva La
Raza: A History of Chicano Identity
and Resistance. Arrive at 6:30pm
for dinner, which will be available for a
donation of \$8.50.

RALLY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Steps of San Francisco City Hall, SF. bayardrustincoalition.com. 3:30-5:30pm, free. The Bayard Rustin LGBT Coalition is organizing this civil rights rally to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his famed "I have a dream" speech. The event will also honor the memory of Bayard Rustin, a gay man who was a prominent strategist of this historic event.

SF DEMS: NO 'B'

The San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee voted at its Aug. 14 meeting to oppose **Proposition B**, a San Francisco ballot initiative seeking voter approval for 8 Washington. That waterfront condominium complex, which would sell units in the \$5 million apiece range, has become a political flashpoint and spurred competing ballot measures. In May, the DCCC also voted to oppose Prop. C, a referendum placed on the ballot by project opponents who hope to see voters reject the plan despite prior approval from the Board of Supervisors.



BIKE THIEVES TWITTER-SHAMED



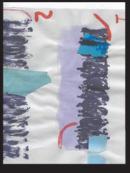
CLASSIFIEDS















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Wilbur Storey, statement of the aims of the Chicago Times, 1861

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Can we get an amen?

BY TONY ROBLES

Senior and Disability Action

OPINION Senior and Disability Action (www.sdaction.org) recently learned of the outcome of the case of the elder who was killed in a collision with a bicyclist in the city's Castro District. The victim, 71-year-old Sutchi Hui, was walking across the intersection of Castro and Market streets with his wife when he was struck by 34-year-old Chris Bucchere, a self-described "entrepreneur, software developer, founder and CEO of Social Collective Inc."

Our organization has been involved in the issue of pedestrian safety, advocating for improvements on the city streets, corridors and areas that pose safety risks for seniors, people with disabilities, and the public in general. The tragic incident that took Mr. Hui's life emphasizes the need for better pedestrian safety and the need to hold bicyclists accountable for their actions.

Seniors have related stories of being run over or in near misses with bicycles speeding through crosswalks or sidewalks. One member of SDA recalls an incident at Critical Mass where a senior was driving a car with two kids in the backseat. The biker repeatedly kicked the elder's car, verbally berating him and frightening the children.

Senior and Disability Action was dismayed by the breezy attitude of the cyclist, who, after the collision that claimed Mr. Hui's life, lamented the loss of his bike helmet in a blog:

"In closing, I want to dedicate this story to my late helmet. She died in heroic fashion today as my head slammed into the tarmac...may she die knowing that because she committed the ultimate sacrifice, her rider can live and ride one. Can I get an amen? Amen"

Really? The cyclist was travelling in excess of 35 miles an hour. Witnesses saw him go through three red lights. It was announced that Mr. Bucchere's punishment will be three years probation and 1,000 hours of community service. This was the second fatality involving a cyclist in a year. The cyclist in the other fatality was sentenced to 500 hours of community service — at the Bicycle Coalition. Where will Mr. Bucchere do his community service? Will he have to look an elder in the face, or come into contact with a community of color, or a community of elders? Or will he use his race and class privilege to sacrifice somehow to a community that has lost much in the way of housing and services - from communities that have subsidized the lives of folks such as himself?

We all must adhere to the rules of the road; the rules apply to both motorists as well as cyclists. We recognize that there are cyclists who follow the rules of the road. But this case was egregious, not only in the loss of life, but in the arrogance of the cyclist, who was using an app that gauged his speed and overall performance on the road, offering a prize as an incentive. The metaphors are striking — plowing through an area as if one has the God-given right and too bad if you happen to be in my way. Mr. Bucchere's actions in the aftermath is evincive of the race and class privilege that has permeated the city, where some lives are evidently worth more than others.

Can we get an amen? sfbg

Editor's Note: On Aug. 15, Bucchere was formally sentenced to 1,000 hours of community service and three years probation.

This modern world

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MY ORDERLY TIMETABLE -- AND UNDERMINED THE CONFIDENCE AMERICANS SHOULD HAVE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT'S SECRET LAWS!





by TOM TOMORROW

SO I'M GOING TO APPOINT AN INDEPENDENT, OUTSIDE REVIEW BOARD--WHICH WILL REPORT TO ME THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, JAMES CLAPPER:







Protect local power and control

EDITORIAL Hidden agendas aimed at subverting popular will in favor of entrenched corporate interests are undermining projects and institutions that are vital to San Francisco's future.

Last week, a pair of important developments illuminated the shady way business gets done in San Francisco. The first instance concerned City College of San Francisco, which had its accreditation rashly revoked last month, prompting Mayor Ed Lee to enthusiastically support the disbanding of the locally elected Board of Trustees and the takeover of City College by state-appointed outsiders bent on shutting down community-based facilities and classes.

While Lee and the San Francisco Chronicle have been cheerleading this loss of local control and the corporatist agenda behind it — CCSF was criticized for resisting the narrowing of its mission to focus on job training and college prep — we at the Guardian have questioned this process and the motives driving it.

We've highlighted how the attack on CCSF is part of national movement to focus schools on job training rather than broadbased education, and questioned the haste with which CCSF's local leadership was usurped.

Critics mocked these concerns, as they did those of the California Federation of Teachers, which formally challenged the actions of the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges, with Lee and others saying that we need to just accept the death threats against CCSF and do whatever these outsiders are asking.

So on Aug. 13, when the US Department of Education sustained the CFT appeal and found the ACCJC in violation of federal regulations and its own internal standards in its approach to City College, it validated our concerns and called into question Lee's hair-trigger abandonment of City College's local leaders.

Frankly, we're puzzled by Lee's approach — from his appointment of right-wing ideologue Rodrigo Santos

as a trustee last year (who subsequently got trounced in the election) to his resistance to helping the college before the state takeover — but we suspect it's connected to Lee's focus on "jobs, jobs, jobs" to the exclusion of other issues and values.

But Lee only counts private sector jobs, not those created to serve the public interest like the thousands of jobs that would be created by CleanPowerSF, a program that Lee opposes and that his appointees to the SF Public Utilities Commission are actively subverting.

As we report in this issue, CleanPowerSF was approved last year by a veto-proof majority on the Board of Supervisors, but it's being blocked by the SFPUC's refusal to approve the rates, with commissioners raising concerns that go well beyond their purview at this point.

It's time for Mayor Lee to start serving the people of San Francisco instead of the corporate titans and political benefactors who elevated this loyal career bureaucrat into the big chair in Room 200. SFBG



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NEWS







"WE CALL ON THE ACCJC TO RESCIND ITS DECISION TO DENY ACCREDITATION TO CCSF."

SH!T H@#PENED

8.14-8.20.2013

SPOTLIGHT SHONE ON GENTRIFICATION IN WEST OAKLAND AND SF

Two stories on the theme of gentrification and displacement — a topic we at the *Bay Guardian* have expended plenty of ink on — ran in major news outlets recently, showing how intense the Bay Area housing market pressure has become as it continues to be fueled by a rapid growth in high-salaried jobs in big tech.

Zeroing in on San Francisco, the Los Angeles Times turned an eye toward Mission District gentrification ("San Francisco split by Silicon Valley's wealth," Aug. 14) illustrating the growing divide with a succinct comment overheard on a Muni bus: "I don't know why old people ride Muni. If I were old, I'd just take Uber."

And a Wall Street Journal article ("Companies spruce up neighborhoods, putting gentrification in overdrive," Aug. 13) provides an eye-opening account of how REO Homes LLC is seeking to accelerate the gentrification by "beautifying" West Oakland, a historically African American neighborhood that is home to predominantly low-income and working-class residents.

Minutes from downtown San Francisco via BART, West Oakland is dotted with Victorians and was hit with a wave of foreclosure during the economic crash, destabilizing the lives of many families who lost their homes.

REO is an investment firm helped along by San Francisco billionaire Tom Steyer, a well-connected venture capitalist (he even hosted a Democratic Party fundraiser with President Barack Obama at his Pacific Heights mansion earlier this year).

As the Journal's Robbie Whelan reports, REO has been shelling out



CITY COLLEGE'S JUDGES GET JUDGED

City College of San Francisco had its accreditation revoked by the Accrediting Commission of Junior and Community Colleges in July, and now the ACCJC is getting a taste of its own medicine — its own existence has been threatened over its treatment of City College.

In an Aug. 13 letter to ACCJC President Barbara Beno, the Department of Education found it out of compliance with the Education Secretary's regulations governing accrediting agencies, as well as the ACCJC's own internal rules.

"Therefore, we have determined that in order to avoid initiation of an action to limit, suspend or terminate ACCJC's recognition, ACCJC must take immediate steps to correct the areas of non-compliance in this letter," the letter reads.

The DOE found the ACCJC noncompliant in four areas: A conflict of interest because Beno's husband served on the visiting team that evaluated City College, no clear policies on who should serve on those teams (with the letter noting the teams were stacked with administrators rather than educators), no defined distinction between "deficiencies" and "recommendations" or indication of their severity levels, and failure to give CCSF two years to correct those deficiencies, as ACCJC policies call for.

Ironically, the ACCJC has plenty of time to

correct its own shortcomings. "The process in this case is that ACCJC will have an opportunity to provide information about the steps it has taken to come into compliance with the cited criteria in its response to the draft staff analysis of the agency's petition for renewal of its recognition, which is currently under review," DOE spokesperson Jane Glickman told the Guardian, noting that there will be a hearing in mid-December, with possible actions ranging from limiting the agency's authority to giving it another year to come into compliance.

But she said the DOE can't directly help City College: "The Department does not have the authority to require an agency to change any accreditation decision it has made. The agency (ACCJC) needs to amend its policies and procedures and provide documentation that it follows its amended policies and procedures to demonstrate that it is in compliance with the cited criteria."

The California Federation of Teachers, which filed the appeal with the DOE, wants the ACCJC to reconsider its sanction of City College in light of these validated concerns over its process.

"We are gratified that the U.S. Dept. of Education agreed with us that the process was deeply flawed, and we call on the ACCJC to rescind its unprecedented decision to deny accreditation to CCSF," CFT President Joshua Pechthalt, wrote in a press release.

But ACCJC Vice President of Policy and Research Krista Johns told us that DOE's concerns were narrow and shouldn't affect its actions against City College:"The overall result of the US Department [of Education]'s analysis and study of the documents presented by the CFT about the ACCJC really affirmed that we are in compliance to a very large degree with all of the many regulations that touch on accreditors."

But it's still an open question whether the DOE's findings will affect the decision to revoke City College's accreditation and turn control over the institution to a state-appointed special trustee.

"We're still analyzing the letter. There's a lot in there," Paul Feist, spokesperson for the State Community College Chancellor's Office, told us. "I don't know if it could say there is any reprieve [for City College]. Regardless, there are a number of problems with City College that need fixing."

But even a cursory analysis of the letter reveals something that raises suspicions about the integrity of the entire process: the DOE letter raises concerns about why the ACCJC chose to go beyond its own policies to sock it to City College.

The college's appeal ultimately is in the hands of the new Super Trustee of City College, Bob Agrella, who acts with all of the powers of the college's now defunct board. But Agrella has, in past interviews, agreed with the way the ACCIC is run.

"I think the way the commission operates is okay," he told City College's newspaper, The Guardsman. "I've dealt with their policies and operating procedures at other institutions where I worked that were dealing with addressing accreditation problems—not to the same degree as here at City College—and the process worked there."

But Karen Saginor, the ex-City College academic senate president, said the DOE criticism of the process should be taken into account in the appeal of the accreditation revocation decision.

"It's pretty exciting, that letter," Saginor told the Guardian. "It's recognition from an important authority that there are irregularities in the process that put us on show cause. We've been saying 'it wasn't fair.' And we've been told 'its a totally fair process, you're just not happy because you don't like the result.' Now we have an important authority verifying what we've been saying." (Joe Fitzgerald)

top dollar to spruce up not just its holdings, but residences *nearby* its West Oakland properties. In a rarely seen form of hyper-gentrification, the company has been planting trees, sprucing up homes (for free) of neighbors who aren't in the market to sell or rent, mending fences, and making other improvements — all in an effort to lure higher-income residents to the neighborhood.

Since 2008, the height of the real-estate market crash, REO has acquired more than 200 homes in Oakland, Whelan reports, mostly in West Oakland. "Most houses cost around \$200,000," he writes, "and [founder Neill Sullivan] said he invests as much \$100,000 to fix each one up."

Real-estate agents have been marketing the sometimes-rough neighborhood to house-hunters as an affordable, nearby alternative to astronomically expensive San Francisco. Now that many people who weren't able to keep up with mortgage payments have been forced out by foreclosure, things are changing swiftly, as if by magic. Armed with cash, bankers are chasing away the blight and rolling out the welcome mat for up-and-comers who can't swing that \$3,000

one-bedroom in The City.

All of which will likely result in further displacement of Oakland residents who are barely holding on as it is. As Oakland City Council member Desley Brooks told the Journal: "I'm not interested in finding housing for San Franciscans who can no longer afford San Francisco. I'm interested in helping people here in Oakland." (**Rebecca Bowe**)



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Fizzling energy

Political stalemate impedes green power program

BY REBECCA BOWE

rebecca@sfbg.com

NEWS A plan for a municipal power program that would offer 100 percent green energy to San Francisco customers was stalled on Aug. 13, prompting Sup. John Avalos to explore what legal options might be available to bring the program to fruition without further delay.

Prior to that San Francisco Public Utilities Commission hearing, supporters of CleanPowerSF rallied on the steps of City Hall, urging Mayor Ed Lee and members of the commission to approve a not-to-exceed rate, a technical hurdle that must be cleared before the program can advance. SFPUC staff cannot formalize a contract for purchasing power on the



open market until that maximum rate has been formally established, so as long as it goes unapproved, CleanPowerSF lingers in limbo.

"We call on the Mayor's Office to stop impeding progress with heavy-handed politics," said Shawn Marshall, executive director of Local Energy Aggregation Network (LEAN) — a group that assists with clean-energy municipal power programs. "And we ask the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to stay focused on its job of implementing a program that was approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors last September. That's almost a year ago, folks."

But after more than two hours of public comment in which dozens of

advocates voiced support for moving ahead with the program, SFPUC commissioners voted down a motion to approve the rate, leaving CleanPowerSF in limbo with no clear path forward.

COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Commissioners Francesca Vietor and Anson Moran were the only ones on the commission to favor the rate approval, while Ann Moller Caen, Vince Courtney, and President Art Torres shot it down.

"I feel like today is a historic moment for the SFPUC as well as the city of San Francisco," Vietor said as she introduced the motion at the beginning of the meeting, "to become a leader in combating climate change."

Rather than focus on the question of whether or not to establish a top rate of 11.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (a reduced price from an earlier proposal that sparked an outcry from critics because of the sticker shock), Torres and Caen criticized CleanPowerSF before casting "no" votes.

Caen said she'd "always had problems with the opt-out situation," referring to a system that will automatically enroll utility customers into the program, while Torres criticized the project for changing shape since its inception, saying, "at the end of the day, this is not what San Franciscans had anticipated."

But after straying well beyond

the scope of a discussion about the not-to-exceed rate, commissioners who shot down CleanPowerSF didn't provide SFPUC staff with any hints on how to allay their concerns. Some might interpret the hearing outcome as a death knell for CleanPowerSF, but Avalos has taken up the cause of pushing for implementation.

Unable to attend the hearing in person, Avalos sent legislative aide Jeremy Pollock to convey his concerns. "We all understand the politics of the situation," his statement noted. "The Board of Supervisors and every major environmental group in the City support this program. The Mayor, PG&E, and its union oppose it. I know you are feeling a lot of pressure from both sides. But we cannot afford further political gamesmanship to cause additional delays in an attempt to kill this program."

The effort to implement CleanPowerSF is mired in politics. For Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Northern California's largest utility, the enterprise represents an encroachment into prime service territory and a threat to the power company's monopoly.

PG&E has long been highly influential at San Francisco City Hall.



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It has funded many political campaigns and curried favor with powerful figures (former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown, known to be a frequent dining companion of the mayor, has been richly rewarded for his consulting services, for instance). Mayor Ed Lee opposes the program, and holds the authority to appoint commissioners to the SFPUC.

CLASH OF CITY BODIES

The City Charter gives the SFPUC the responsibility of establishing fair and sufficient rates for the city's utility operations. But Avalos charged that "any further delay will essentially show that we are in a constitutional crisis caused by a city department failing to carry out a policy approved by a veto-proof supermajority of the Board of Supervisors."

The supervisor added that if the rate failed to win approval at the hearing, he would call upon the City Attorney to explore legal options "to resolve this type of stalemate including the possibility of drafting a Charter Amendment. CleanPowerSF is too important and the threat of climate change is too significant to allow this program to die on the vine. It is time for leadership."

Pollock said on Aug. 15 that Avalos was still awaiting a response from City Attorney Dennis Herrera's office.

Meanwhile, activists who've attended countless meetings with the SFPUC staff to move the program forward expressed frustration in the aftermath of the vote. "Things are in this holding pattern, and the dissenting commissioners did not provide a way forward," noted Jed Holtzman, an advocate with climate group 350 Bay Area. "They just kind of said, 'no."" The weekend before the hearing, mailers paid for by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245, a union representing PG&E employees, blanketed Noe Valley residences with fliers. Depicting seashells besmirched with oil, the mailers seized on the involvement of Shell Energy North America, an oil giant with a contract pending with the SFPUC to administer power purchases for the first four and a half years of the program.

Shell's involvement presents something of a challenge for advocates, who have long advocated for a program that would be run entirely by the SFPUC with a centerpiece of renewable power generation facilities that could double as a source of

local job creation.

The initial program phase looked quite different: Shell would purchase green power on the open market, making CleanPowerSF significantly more expensive than PG&E. To address that concern and

"EVERY MAJOR **ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP IN THE CITY SUPPORTS THIS."**

SUP. JOHN AVALOS

lower rates, the SFPUC staff recently allowed the use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), more affordable units accounting for green power produced somewhere in California as opposed to electricity coming straight over the power lines.

Despite the drawbacks of a more watered down start to the program and the involvement of a notorious fossil fuel company, progressives and major environmental organizations strongly advocated for moving forward with the Shell contract to give the SFPUC a shot

at positioning itself financially to float revenue bonds for build-outs of a local green energy infrastructure.

"The plan is to completely replace this with the build-out," noted John Rizzo, who sits on the executive committee of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club.

BUILDING LOCAL PROJECTS

A 134-page report prepared by Local Power Inc. described in careful detail how the city could use wind, solar, geothermal, energy efficiency, and other measures for a viable program. While SFPUC representatives have indicated that some of those recommendations will still be implemented, the agency is no longer working with Local Power.

"Our draft model was 1,500 jobs per year," Paul Fenn, founder and president of Local Power, wrote in an email to the Guardian. "But earlier runs show as many as twice that many jobs, and we projected the higher end for the final model." In the end, though, "SFPUC declined to continue with completion of this work, so we are in limbo — apparently an organization without allies," Fenn added.

Asked about this, Kim Malcom, the SFPUC's director of CleanPowerSF,

told the Guardian that Fenn's analysis was based on the assumption that the agency would issue bonds totaling \$1 billion. "We have no confidence that we could issue a billion dollars worth of bonds in the first few years of the program," she said, noting that the highest the agency expected to go was closer to \$200 million.

And at this point, it remains to be seen whether CleanPowerSF will move ahead at all. One of the difficulties we face is that we can't move forward without a rate, SFPUC spokesperson Charles Sheehan noted. In terms of launching and implementing, we can't do that until we have a rate structure, and now that the utility board has blocked that from happening, there is no clear path forward.

Still, activists who are serious about CleanPowerSF believe it's key for positioning San Francisco as a leader in the fight against climate change.

"CleanPowerSF is a crucial step for achieving California's 2020 greenhouse gas goals," Bill Reilly, chairman emeritus of the World Wildlife Fund and a former EPA administrator, wrote in a letter to Lee. "It's also an essential model as cities and communities are compelled to address the problems fueled by climate change." sfbg



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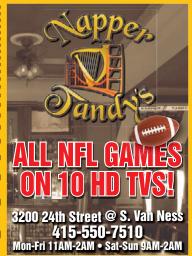
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Waiting to connect

Years after a failed privatization scheme, SF is letting

Google create its municipal Wi-Fi system

BY DARWIN BONDGRAHAM news@sfbg.com

NEWS Eight years ago, San Francisco almost gave away an enormously lucrative public utility to Google and Earthlink: a citywide Wi-Fi connection. The hastily drawn up plan was championed by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom after a Google executive pitched him on the idea of citywide wireless Internet access at a dinner party.

Google's Wi-Fi scheme would have blanketed the city with coverage, but it would also have required users to obtain Google accounts to sign in, thereby facilitating the company's vacuum-like data harvesting practices that suck up everything from search queries and emails to the geographic locations of smartphones and tablets. Google's Wi-Fi plan would have allowed the tech giant to insert "prioritized placement" of ads and brands into a Wi-Fi user's feed, limiting choice of content through profit-driven algorithms.

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, ACLU of Northern California, Electronic Privacy Information Center, and we at the Bay Guardian all criticized the plan (see "Tech Disconnect," 11/9/05). Earthlink, Google's partner in the privatization deal, nearly went bankrupt in 2007 and the company bailed on the Wi-Fi proposal. That was the end of the city's first Wi-Fi scheme. Thousands of free networks in cafes and hotels popped up in the meantime, leading many to question the purpose of building municipal Wi-Fi.

But municipal Wi-Fi is back. Sup. Mark Farrell and Mayor Ed Lee announced recently that free Wi-Fi is coming to 31 San Francisco parks. Google is involved yet again, but officials in the city's Department of Technology say that the network will be not be controlled by Google, nor directly susceptible to privacy invasions by the "don't be evil" company or its affiliates. In short, it will be a public utility.

Telecom companies were busy expanding their cellphone infrastructure. But thanks to the prolif-**PUBLIC UTILITY**

"I think a lot of the prior debate around free Wi-Fi in San Francisco that never moved forward was because of different questions around business models," Farrell told us. "To emphasize, this is a free gift [from Google] of financial benefit to the city of San Francisco with no strings attached."

For the parks, Google has agreed to give a \$600,000 contribution to fund Wi-Fi installation and two years of operation. Farrell said this is the company's only role. There will be no Google hardware or software allowing the company to devour user data or steer traffic.

San Francisco's reinvigorated push to build out public Wi-Fi comes just as major telecom companies and Internet giants like Google are again targeting large Wi-Fi networks for privatization. In the late 2000s, many tech companies abandoned Wi-Fi services as unprofitable. eration and technical advances of smartphones, cellular networks are now choking on megabits of traffic. Telecom companies see Wi-Fi as a means of offloading mobile traffic onto broadband infrastructure. Google and other companies see Wi-Fi networks as vast troves of consumer data, and airwaves on which to advertise.

Google's grant for Wi-Fi in San Francisco's parks comes after months of bad press for the company and the tech sector, including revelations that all of Silicon Valley's top companies readily cooperated with the NSA's electronic surveillance programs.

Google also recently paid out \$7 million to settle state investigations into its "Wi-Spy" data collection activities: wireless receivers hidden in Google's Street View vehicles sopped up communications data, including passwords and CONTINUES ON PAGE 16 >>

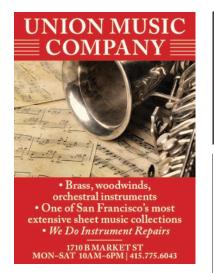
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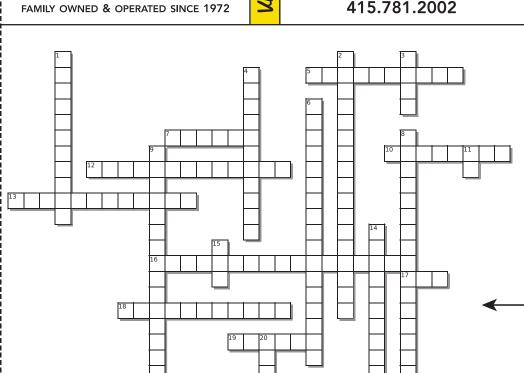
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- with a sailor whose love is the sea 10 1972's hit song of women's empowerment,
- hear me roar!

- 12 1972 Super Bowl VI Champs 13 Oscar's 1972 Best Actress 16 Gritty 1972 NYC film about cops, the maifa
- 17 In 1972 Time Inc. transmits this, the first pay cable network
- 18 Ned Beatty made his feature film debut in this creepy southern box office hit
- 19 Less static in your polyester thanks to this new dryer sheet, introduced in '72
- 21 He likes Life cereal

DOWN

- 1972 animated film based on Robert Crumb
- 1972 movie about a cruise gone very wrong Released in 1972, this digital table tennis game started it all
- Dodger pitcher inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame, at 36 the youngest ever Diana Ross and Billy Dee Williams biopic
- Name of tennis battle between Billie Jean
- King and Bobby Riggs 1972 World Series Champions

11 Name of Gloria Steinem's magazine - a 1972

- 14 Oscar's 1972 Best Picture
- 15 1972 NCAA football champions

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NEWS

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even email content, from millions of networks in the United States and Europe. Beside Google's numerous spying scandals, the company has also come under criticism for aggressively avoiding federal taxes, and locally for its impact on San Francisco's transportation and housing problems.

If the \$600,000 gift is designed to bolster Google's image as a good corporate citizen, it probably also makes good business sense. "Thousands of Googlers live and work in SF," said Jenna Wandres, a spokesperson for the company replied to our inquiries by email.

"IT'S NOT A GOOGLE NETWORK, IT'S NOT A WI-FI NAME FROM GOOGLE."

MARC TOUITOU, DIRECTOR
OF THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT
OF TECHNOLOGY

Marc Touitou, director of the city's Department of Technology, told us the park Wi-Fi system will be entirely the city's, and that no third party corporation will determine who can use the service or under what terms.

"It's not a Google network, it's not a Wi-Fi name from Google. It's a donation, a gesture," said Touitou. He added that talks with AT&T to let the company roll out a Wi-Fi network for all of Market Street were recently cut off because his office has decided to build the system as a fully municipal network instead.

CORPORATE GIFTS

Touitou's office has plans to light up free municipal Wi-Fi along the Embarcadero, in the Castro, Noe Valley, and perhaps even on Muni buses in the near future. With the parks, Touitou said the idea is to gain back the confidence of the public, to show that the city can do this on its own. Touitou also said that he hopes the city will budget funds for these Wi-Fi systems so that they're not reliant on corporate gifts.

"We reserve right to leverage this model where companies can put money in because it's in their interest," Touitou said. "They don't care what name is on the network so long as they can dump their traffic on it." A public utility model will allow San Francisco to own and operate Wi-Fi across the city and to allow telecom companies to funnel mobile traffic through the city's infrastructure, likely for a fee. Touitou said it doesn't make sense for the city to give away its Wi-Fi infrastructure as it is a limited and increasingly valuable asset.

"The day we sell it would be a sad day," Touitou added.

He described the city's two radio towers, 200 buildings, thousands of utility poles, and the fiber optic grid that can connect these as the backbone of a robust municipal wireless network. Telecom and Internet companies will pay to use the infrastructure under this model.

Most privacy experts who examined San Francisco's prior Wi-Fi plans have yet to weigh in on the parks network. Revelations about the NSA's vast spying programs have consumed the attention of groups like EFF and the ACLU.

Touitou said, however, that the city's Wi-Fi privacy policies will be strong. "This isn't a third party network trying to market to you," explained Touitou. "It's a city network that wants to facilitate traffic, and we want to have the privacy respected."

Even as San Francisco plans its next steps with city Wi-Fi, Google is rapidly expanding its own wireless network operations. Already the company controls the citywide Wi-Fi network for Menlo Park where the "Googleplex" is located. Google also has Wi-Fi networks scooping up communications in Boston's South Station and New York's Chelsea neighborhood.

The terms of Google's Menlo Park deal do not limit Google from collecting data, and users are required to sign in with a Google account. Google also recently announced that it will take control over Starbucks' thousands of Wi-Fi networks, creating a potentially vast trove of consumer data and a marketing platform for both companies. Starbucks has 50 locations in San Francisco.

AT&T, which lost the Starbucks contract to Google, and also lost its bid to take over Market Street's airwaves, has its own data mining projects that tap the company's Wi-Fi networks in 30 countries for personal information, and to route telecom traffic.

So even with municipal Wi-Fi, tech and telecom companies will still have ample ability to siphon off communications data straight from wireless networks and hand it to the feds or to advertisers. **SFBG**





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ARTS + CULTURE CLASSIFIEDS AUGUST 21 - 27, 2013 / SFBG.COM 17 FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR MUSIC

BY JOE FITZGERALD

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NEWS In the newest of the city's recycle-pocalypse saga, two Safeway recycling centers are shuttering their services, further narrowing the places in San Francisco where consumers can get their can and bottle deposits back from the government.

The Japantown Safeway on Geary Boulevard already evicted its team of recyclers, and the Safeway at Church and Market streets will soon follow suit.

Early media reports suggested the services would soon be replaced by reverse vending machines, but Safeway spokesperson Wendy Gutshall told the Guardian it's still exploring all of its options.

"In San Francisco, it is easy to recycle with curbside recycling," she told us. "The vending machines are a relatively new option and we have been testing them in other locations."

Safeway has two options for those locations, in lieu of a recycling center: Pay a state-mandated fee to offset a lack of recycling, or to use the reverse vending machines.

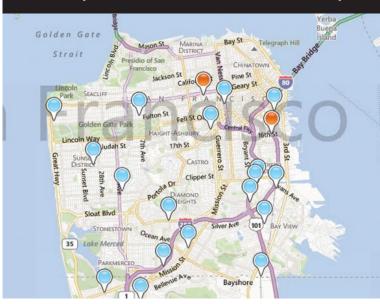
The vending machines are a growing problem for San Francisco consumers, advocates say, because they process only one can or bottle at a time, making it nearly impossible for consumers who bring bags full of recyclables to process their buyback in a timely manner.

Ed Dunn, the executive director of the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council, which formerly oversaw the recycling center at Kezar Gardens in Golden Gate Park, thinks this is a trend that may not stop.

"This wave of closures will trigger (more closures) in in-store recycling across the northern half of the City," he said. And the numbers back that up. There were 30

Canned again

Safeway's two new recycling center closures add to impacts on small businesses and the poor



recycling centers in San Francisco as recently as 1990, and the state agency Cal Recycle shows there are now only 20 — an unspecified number of which are recycling vending machines.

Cal Recycle said only two of them are vending machines, but a visit to some of the sites revealed there are more than two, and that there may be a discrepancy in its data.

Safeway's option of just paying the fee is a growing trend, Cal Recycle said. As recycling centers in San Francisco go the way of the dodo, consumers and small businesses feel the pinch. The lack of recycling centers triggers state laws requiring local businesses to pay fees of up to \$100 a day if they don't provide buyback when a nearby recycling center closes.

Supermarkets who make more than \$2 million annually, like the two aforementioned Safeways, serve as "convenience zones," mandated by California law. Those zones cover a half-mile radius around a supermarket that are convenient places for consumers to bring their recyclables to get back their five or ten cents per can or bottle.

But when large supermarkets like Safeway apply for exemptions with the state at a cost of \$100 a day, or \$36,000 a year, the burden of recycling falls onto each one of the businesses in a half mile radius around those supermarkets.

That liquor store on the corner? They have to pay people for their bags of recycling, or pay the same fees as the Safeway. Many businesses can't afford either option, said Regina Dick-Endrizzi, the director of city's Office of Small Business. That, and they don't have the space available to put the reverse vending machines as an "out."

"When you're a transit-first city, it's harder. This law was really written for suburbia," she told the Guardian. "We're getting denser."

San Francisco's density means Safeway's decision can affect many local businesses. If a convenience zone in Santa Rosa closed, for instance, maybe five businesses would be affected — and they'd have plenty of space in a parking lot to deal with recycling.

But when the Haight Ashbury recycling center closed down, more than 50 businesses were affected.

The state bill was crafted in 1986, which makes it outdated in a number of ways, Dick-Endrizzi said. But the convenience zone requirements need to be amended on a state level, meaning a fix could be months or years away. "This is not going to be a quick solve," she said.

In the meantime, stores must apply for exemptions, which are numbering too many in San Francisco at this point, said Mark Oldfield, communications director for Cal Recycle.

"The point of the convenience zones to have places for people to recycle," he told us. "If they're all exemptions, there's no place for convenience."

But even when supermarkets put in recycling machines, consumers and the city still lose out, critics say.

Kevin Drew, the zero waste coordinator at the city's SF Environment, brought the problem to the Small Business Commission in December. "I've heard concerns from homeowners and consumers saying 'There's not a place to take my bottles and cans, I've got to drive there, and there's a huge long line when I get there."

That's the rub: When many San Franciscans think of people who collect bottles and cans, they think of the homeless, maybe vagrants, certainly poor, who take them from our curbside bins and trash cans. But even if you don't identify with those folks, they're not the only ones depending on these recycling centers.

"My experience in going to the centers and seeing what happens is that where there are certainly is a robust group of scavengers and poachers," Drew told the Small Business Commission. "There's a steady flow of people from a restaurant, people coming with kids... You'd be surprised."

He said that of the \$18 million a year in recycling San Francisco produces, two-thirds of that comes from recycling centers. So if you think "everyone" uses curbside recycling, think again.

The Guardian's research bears out the idea that there are still regular folks using recycling centers. As we covered the city's closure of the Haight Ashbury Recycling Center (see "Canned," 12/4/12), we met families, kids who brought in recycling for their allowance, bar and restaurant owners who wanted to make money back instead of paying for curbside recycling, and yes, vagrants.

One of the customers we talked to was Kristy Zeng, a 30-year-old immigrant from China who worked with her 62-year-old mother to support the family with recycling revenues.

"People look at her and say she's too old [to get another job]," Zeng said.

Finally, there's the impact to the city to consider. Anyone who has ever been in Dolores Park on a sunny afternoon understands the role that recyclers play in keeping San Francisco clean and providing an elegant way for the poor to earn a living.

With Safeway's decision, both benefits are being diminished. **SFBG**

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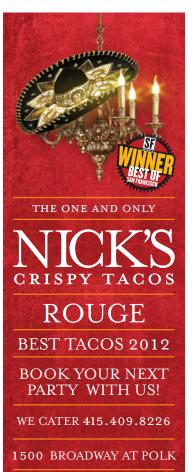


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TABLEHOPPER Venetian seafood in the Castro, a boatful of brunch burgers, and all-you-can-eat jambalaya.

CHOW NOW

Anyone who has lived in San Francisco for some time, and certainly on Russian Hill, should be well acquainted with **Pesce** (www.pescebarsf.com), chef-owner Ruggero Gadaldi and Adriano Paganini's Venetian-inspired restaurant and bar. Well, folks who live in the Castro are pretty stoked, because the restaurant has moved from its perch on the hill and reopened in the former 2223 space on Market Street. The menu will fit well with whatever your appetite requires: you can come by for some bite-size cicchetti (all \$2-\$3), including smoked salmon or prosciutto and melon to go with your cocktail (most are \$10), like the Venetian, with gin, moscato, bianco vermouth, and orange bitters. The trademark bevvie, however, is the sgroppino, which you should consider at the end of your meal — it's composed of lemon sorbet, Prosecco, and vodka, and is simply fantastico. The new marble bar is gonna be hopping, but there's space for all of you since the entire bar area has room for 38 folks.

Don't want to drink your dinner? There is a large variety of small plates, ranging from salads (beets and greens, kale with Caesar dressing — or go for some potatoes, cream, and Parmesan, woohoo) to pastas, including pappardelle and squid ink risotto. Pesce has always been known for its seafood selection, of course, like octopus, grilled sardines, and larger dishes like branzino and cioppino. It wouldn't be an SF restaurant without some pizza; since the original 2223 location already had a pizza oven, look for the new bonus of five kinds of pizzette on the menu.

The space is almost twice the size of the original Pesce, with soft grey tones, a pressed-tin ceiling, and there's a private dining room as well. Hours are 5pm-11pm for the bar, with the dining room opening at 5:30pm. Weekend



brunch is coming soon too. As for the fate of the Polk Street location, stand by!

BALLIN' ON A BUDGET

Of course some news about a new meatball truck needs to be in this section. Balls! Starting up on Thursday, Aug. 22, is the **Red Sauce Meatballs** truck (www.twitter.com/redsauceballs), which is launching outside The Homestead (2301 Folsom, SF) in the Mission, or you can find the truck at the SOMA StrEAT Food Park that weekend. Meatballs, so good — and there is also a vegetarian version, so everyone wins.

If you have wanted to check out the chic Waiheke Island Yacht Club (Pier 29, 1256 The Embarcadero, SF. www.waihekeislandyachtclub.com) space and high-end cuisine but can't afford the tariff, maybe the new brunch will be your ticket to sail? Come by Sat-Sun 10am-3pm for fancy brunch dishes like Mt. Cook Alpine smoked salmon, escabeche, salsa verde, soft herbs, hollandaise, and eggs (\$16), or a couple different kinds of burgers (both \$15). A Bloody Mary for just \$6, yes please. Plus there are DJs to keep things upbeat.

Have the belly room for an all-you-can-eat New Orleans-style feast? Make your reservation for this special dinner at Just for

You Café (732 22nd St., SF. www. justforyoucafe.com) — which is a fundraiser for it parklet — on Saturday, Aug. 24, 6pm-8pm. You'll get to tuck into seafood gumbo, jambalaya, eggplant Parmesan, salad, and garlic bread, plus beverages like chicory coffee and iced tea. Tickets are \$45 per person and include a glass of wine, Champagne, or beer; additional drinks will be priced at only \$3.50. For tickets, call 415-350-2020 and ask for Ruben.

YOU GOTTA EAT THIS

There are ham-and-cheese sandwiches, and then there's the tosta mista (\$7.25) at Cafe St. Jorge (3438 Mission, SF. www.cafestjorge.com), a charming new café in Bernal. This Portuguese twist includes two kinds of Portuguese cheeses (queijo edam and ilha azul) and either black forest ham or applewood-smoked ham. It all melds together in cheesy bliss. But the brilliance lies in the spot-on toasting of the thick-cut sourdough bread (from Bakers of Paris) on the panino press, with the lightest brushing of butter. Hold

Marcia Gagliardi is the founder of the weekly tablehopper e-column; subscribe for more at tablehopper.com. Get her app: Tablehopper's Top Late-Night Eats. On Twitter: @tablehopper.

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THE SELECTOR









GOD IS DEAD?

WEDNESDAY 8/21

"GERMAN SUMMER FILMS"

Though the Goethe Institut's latest film series is dubbed "German Summer Films," it offers a refreshingly loose interpretation of the theme. For example, the first film, *Color of the Ocean* (2010), is from German director Maggie Peren, but it's set in Spain's Canary Islands, and features an international cast in its tale of a border patrol officer (Alex González) who meets a German woman (Sabine Timoteo)



entangled with a Congolese refugee (Hubert Koundé). (That said, the second film in the series, 2005's *Summer in Berlin*, is more or less the quintessential "German summer film.") The rest of the series includes acclaimed German-Turkish director Fatih Akin's 2000 *In July*; and a 2009 made-for-TV adaptation of Jack London's *Sea Wolf* starring Sebastian Koch (2006's *The Lives of Others*). (Cheryl Eddy)

Wednesdays through Sept 18 6:30pm, \$5 donation Goethe Institut San Francisco 530 Bush, Second FIr, SF goethe.de/sanfrancisco

THURSDAY 8/22

© COOL GHOULS

Bay Area natives Cool Ghouls are fun, reckless, rude garage-rock goofballs and they know it. It's virtually impossible to attend one of their





live shows and not feel the same chill vibes they give off. The group released its self-titled full-length debut album in April of this year, and has been playing shows on it locally since. The Ghouls' scratchyscreamy vocals backed by playful guitar riffs and tumbling percussion resonated with the young SF crowds and landed them gigs most recently at Bottom of the Hill, the Chapel, Hemlock Tavern. Brick and Mortar. and the summery Phono del Sol fest. Their enjoyably sunny sound was the perfect match. If they get much bigger, their house-party image might have to expand. So catch them while you can, and while they're still cool. (Hillary Smith) With Lemme Adams, Black Cobra Vipers 9pm, \$10 Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., SF (415) 626-4455 www.bottomofthehill.com

MELVINS

And they said a stoner metal cover of Roxy Music's "In Every Dream Home a Heartache" couldn't be done. Well, sludge metal veterans the Melvins are here to prove them wrong. The longstanding band is making a voyage to Slim's to play its 2013 cover album, Everybody Loves Sausages. Get ready for things to get a little weird and campy, as a bunch of middle aged dudes play a diverse selection of tunes throughout the ages. Embarking on their 30th anniversary tour, the Melvins will be playing songs by

artists such as freak folk band the Fugs, the dear and departed drag queen Divine (John Waters' muse), Queen, David Bowie, and the Jam.



In short: don't miss this hit parade. (Erin Dage) With Honky 9pm, \$22 Slim's 333 11th St, SF (415) 255-0333 www.slimspresents.com

FRIDAY 8/23

6 NO AGE

The newest album from LA noise-punks No Age, An Object, seems almost restrained compared to the bombast of previous records like 2010's Everything in Between. With An Object, there's a sense of tense build-up without release, tightly coiled guitar lines over paranoid drumming, and faraway hollers on the Sub Pop record, which comes out Aug. 20. Like much arty post-punk, it makes you feel like you're holding your breath for the entirety of the

tracks, unable to unclench. Relax and settle in: the experiment of *An Object* is a success, and the album is worthy of passionate intake. Continuing down the experimental route, the duo takes its live show to a more unexpected location this time: the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. And if you miss this stop, No Age will be back in Oakland Sept. 28 for the Station to Station fest at 16th St. Station. (Emily Savage) With Devin Gary and Ross, Sun Foot 7:30pm (doors at 5pm), \$7 Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

2625 Durant, Berk. www.bampfa.berkeley

ONAHKO AND MEDICINEFOR THE PEOPLE

Aptly named, Nahko and Medicine for the People seem like some sort of sonic cure. Nahko Bear's versatile vocals range from a howling, soulful croon to a bouncing, jovial



talk-sing. The indefinable quality of the group is further pushed in lyrics "I am a killer whale, I am a lion, I

am a panther, I am coyote, I'm just a human being on another fuckin' journey," in "Warrior People." According to their website, Bear is joined on stage by "truth seekers for whom Nahko's story resonates with their own." Nahko himself was born a mix of Apache, Puerto Rican, and Filipino cultures and adopted into an American family. Consequently, he suffered from an identity crisis at a young age. The mission of the band is simply to make people feel good, and to give solace to the culturally alienated. They do all that and then some. (Smith) With Saritah

9pm, \$15 Independent 628 Divisadero, SF (415) 771-1421 www.theindependentsf.com

6 THE PARMESANS

Local countrified indie-folksters the Parmesans released their full-length debut, *Wolf Eggs*, this week. The record's full of swoony multipart harmonies, plucky instruments, and a chipper sense of hot-sauced humor. All of that is on fine dis-



play in track, "Load Up on Eggs and Bacon," which begins with a solo voice, "when I wake up/I feel shaken" then layered barbershop quartet-style with additional harmonies, "load up on eggs and bacon," and the sound of an egg cracking. Add to that the strings of guitars and mandolins and banios, bellowing trumpet, and a light and tight rhythm section. Then bake on high. Oh, and be sure to check the new video for "JuJaJe," also off Wolf Eggs; there's no food involved, unfortunately, but the sparse little vid does feature the boys clowning around in various states of lounge. Perhaps there'll be egg on their faces in the next one. (Savage)

With Before the Brave, Garden Party, Greg Downing

9pm, \$10 Thee Parkside 1600 17th St, SF www.theeparkside.com CONTINUES ON PAGE 22 >>>

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SATURDAY 8/24

• "SNEAK PEEK AT THE FRINGE"

The colorfully creative chaos that is the 22nd San Francisco Fringe Festival is mere weeks away (it runs Sept. 6-21), but diehards and early birds can check out excerpts from works



by eight local companies tonight. Among them: Amy K. Kilgard's multi-character solo performance, Triskaidekaphobia: 13 Consumer Tragedies; Sean Andries and Siouxsie Q's tale of a love affair between a mermaid and a tourist, Fish-girl; Maria Grazia Affinato's autobiographical ode to her Italian family, Eating Pasta Off the Floor; and Genie and Audrey's Dream Show!, featuring Genie Cartier, Audrey Spinazola, and a "cat piano." For all the deets — and complete info on the upcoming full fest, visit the Fringe's website. (Cheryl Eddy) 8pm, free Exit Theatre

SUNDAY 8/25

156 Eddy, SF

www.sffringe.org

SAN FRANCISCO BACON AND BEER FESTIVAL

For the first time ever, San Francisco will host an almighty bacon and beer fest. The Boston version of the



event has sold out in under 10 minutes the past three years. Chefs from more than 25 Bay Area companies presenting their best bacon dishes and local craft breweries bringing



out their finest for the \$50 event are reasons enough to attend the unique gathering. If you'd like one more reason to spend the cash, take comfort in the fact that all admission proceeds will be donated to Sprouts Cooking Club. The club is a Bay Area organization that strives to teach children of all socio-economical backgrounds how to cook handson with real chefs, using real ingredients, in real restaurants. (Smith) 2:30pm, \$50

Fairmont San Francisco Hotel 950 Mason, SF (415) 772-5000

Facebook: San Francisco Bacon and Beer Festival

MONDAY 8/26

© DEERHUNTER

Many who have flirted with musical greatness have also teetered on the fine line between eccentricity and insanity, and Deerhunter frontperson Bradford Cox is no exception. While the Atlanta band's garage rock albums continue to receive glowing reviews and growing numbers of dedicated fans, Cox's mental (in) stability has also been featured center stage in the group's evolution. His charming eccentricities — rambling and semi-incoherent stage banter are shadowed with more off-putting stunts, as when Cox responded to a fan's snarky request for "My Sharona"

with an hour-long cover of the song in Minneapolis. A Deerhunter show is many things — insane, beautiful, confusing, and frequently very moving — but there is one thing it will never manage to be. Bradford Cox will never be boring. (Haley Zaremba) With Lonnie Holley, Avey Tare's Slasher Flicks

8pm, \$21 Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell, SF (415) 885-0750 www.slimspresents.com

© ÉVOCATEUR: THE MORTON DOWNEY JR. MOVIE

A trashy pop-culture icon, a chain smoker, a right-wing maniac, a finger-jabbing screamer so notorious his fans were called "Loudmouths:" Morton Downey Jr. was one of a kind, and that's probably for the best. New documentary Évocateur:



The Morton Downey Jr. Movie screens tonight in San Rafael and opens Aug. 28 at the Roxie; it looks at his legacy through clips of Downey's train-wreck-in-progress talk show and features interviews with the likes of Pat Buchanan, Alan Dershowitz, and Sally Jesse Raphael. (Eddy) 7:15pm, \$6.50-\$10.75
Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center 1118 Fourth St, San Rafael

© BLACK SABBATH

www.cafilm.org

Before reality television and famous flame-haired wives, even before that bloody bat-biting incident, Ozzy Osbourne was simply a wild-eyed young boy from a hardscrabble town who, together with guitarist Tony Iommi and drummer Bill Ward. formed the world's first heavy metal group. Black Sabbath has become a hardened, bellowing legend, though in recent years was mostly relegated to playing metal fests like Mayhem, or Ozzy solo at Ozzfest. This year, however, the original group released its first new album together in decades, 13, a lumbering return to form produced by Rick Ruben. With it came instantly timeless first single, "God is dead?" an eight-minute metal epic. Beyond all the hype, myth, and druggy tabloid brouhaha, a vital band still stands before us, wicked as it ever was, and willing to crowd-please with old tracks mixed in with the new. According to

live reviews of this headlining nonfest tour, the band has been opening with "War Pigs." (Savage)



7:30pm, \$40-\$149.50 Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View www.livenation.com

TUESDAY 8/27

6 THE BREEDERS

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of their breakthrough album *Last Splash*, '90s favorites the Breeders released a special deluxe version of the record earlier this year on CD (a seven-disc vinyl version is set to drop next month on 4AD), featuring a host of bonus live tracks, demos, a photo booklet, and more. The classic lineup of the band — Kim and Kelley Deal, Josephine Wiggs and Jim MacPherson — has reunited

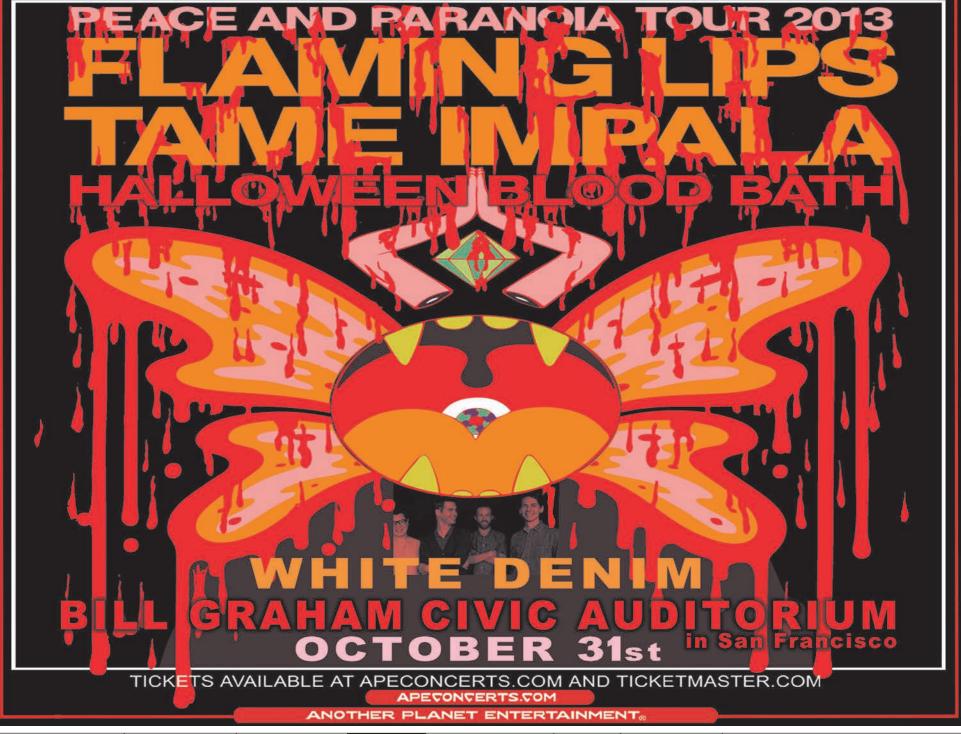


and is promising Bay Area fans it will perform *Last Splash*, which was recorded right here in San Francisco, in its entirety, along with its seminal debut effort, *Pod.* (Sean McCourt)

debut effort, Pod. (Sean 8pm, \$30 Fillmore 1805 Geary, SF (415) 346-6000 www.thefillmore.com sfbg

The Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration, please include the title of the event, a brief description of the event, date and time, venue name, street address (listing cross streets only isn't sufficient), city, telephone number readers can call for more information, telephone number for media, and admission costs. Send information to Listings, the Guardian, 225 Bush, 17th Flr., SF, CA 94105; or e-mail (paste press release into e-mail body — no attachments, please) to listings@sfbg.com. Digital photos may be submitted in jpeg format; the image must be at least 240 dpi and four inches by six inches in size. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.





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MUSIC 🚅













BY EMILY SAVAGE AND RYAN PRENDIVILLE emilysavage@sfbg.com

MUSIC You're watching a band live at the Rickshaw Stop, or Café Du Nord, or the Warfield, and you're maybe a little tipsy, but it sounds like, really, really good right now. You feel inspired, mesmerized even, and looking around, you can tell your friends are feeling it too — sonic elation. It's a rare moment in this town, that emotional connection between you and the artist, with so many other possible distractions.

Speaking of which, you pull out your smartphone, tap, and swipe to automatically tip the band \$5 extra. You get the fuzzy do-gooder feeling. You feel bold and connected, and perhaps still a bit drunk. Did she just wink at me? The future is now.

"Probably about a year ago we realized we made purchasing things very easy, which at the time was just admission into shows," says WillCall co-founder and CEO Donnie Dinch, clad in a black WillCall T-shirt and grasping a glass of whiskey from an oversized wood booth in the Mission's Dear Mom. which is around the corner from the WillCall office.

"The entire concert experience doesn't end with getting in. There's a lot of friction and noise; if you already paid to get in, you shouldn't have to schlep around more cards."

Hey there, concert industry 2.0 (or rather, 2k13). WillCall, and other concert convenience apps such as Thrillcall, Timbre, Bandsintown, and Songkick, have been vying to alleviate and embolden your smartphone ticketing experience for just a few years now.

In fact, WillCall and Thrillcall, both local San Francisco-based start-ups, each launched their apps in February of 2012. And in the past year and a half, they've independently seen raised profiles, their own buzzy pop-up shows, and likely more than a few confused consumer comparisons.

And re-upped versions of both, launching this summer and fall, could determine the future of these companies in differentiating their

At Dear Mom, Dinch is speaking of WillCall's newest push to

include a few more concert options within the app beyond tickets, or an "in-show experience," which means not only purchasing tickets to a few select shows, but also swiping the app to buy merch, tip the band on stage, or create a custom festival package.

Thrillcall, meanwhile, is set to release its own version 2.0 in October. Along with a sleeker look (Thrillcall has been criticized for its less-than-flashy interface), there will be a slightly different system for the



app, which now displays full concert listings for the night, but only offers deals and direct ticket purchases to a small handful of shows.

"The next version of the app is going to take all of the historical data we have, all of the input you want to give us, and it's going to start manicuring that listing," says Matthew Tomaszewicz, co-founder and head of product marketing and business development at Thrillcall. He's a friendly and inquisitive Kevin Bacon-type sitting in one of the metal chairs in the floor-to-ceiling glass-walled lobby of the SOMA building where Thrillcall currently sets up shop on the 11th floor.

"We're not at recommendations just yet, because there's an interstitial step where we're going to start putting out some stuff we think you'll like, but the only way we can build recommendations is if people

interact with it," he says cautiously. "I'm a little careful about calling it recommendations because I don't want to give that expectation of 'oh, you said I'd like this.' It's more, OK, well, we culled a little bit here with some filters and lists of things you might like, and how will people respond?"

TIPPING THE SCALE

WillCall's newest offerings seem the techy approach to the concert industry. Why can't we just go to DIY house shows, get sweaty, meet

the bands, buy a shirt off the table,

Brave new world

Mobile concerts apps vie for your credit card love and attention

> - what's next? And why should we care?

and reminisce about it all in person, anymore? That still happens, but for a different demographic than would typically use these apps.

The kind of standard, everyperson concert-goer in a major city would likely discover new music on Spotify or Rdio, then buy tickets on a website. So the industry is becoming more tech-oriented anyway.

But concepts like "band-tipping" seem wayward, depending on the show — there's a reason you usually tip a bartender, valet, or stripper and not the musicians. Remember that cover to get in to the show? The ticket you were sold? Some of that was for the band, and it will get a

Dinch says he sees the new features as "like an extra, a 'thank you,' a 'you deserve this,'" if someone is particularly enjoying a set and wants to give a little more, directly to the artist.

See, bands can no longer make money from albums sales thanks to file-sharing, low-paying online

music streaming services, and a whole host of infected music industry problems, so these shows really are their biggest source of income, and a little extra here and there couldn't hurt. Most bands don't get \$1.2 million in venture capital infusions like start-ups do.

Dinch says the idea came about during a casual staff conversation in the office's "cozy room," which is exactly what it sounds like.

The first time they tried it was at a Tanlines pop-up at the Rickshaw Stop with

Right now, the buying-merch function of the app is limited. If you buy something using your phone at the show, the item gets shipped directly to your home — that way you can, "still get sloshed and not worry about carrying a shirt or poster around." Or if you don't have cash, or don't want to wait in line, all of these things are removed from the equation. However, can you still claim you "got it at the show," when you actually ordered it online while at the show? Should that even matter?

> "If it's easy for me to buy some shit, I'm probably going to buy it," Dinch says. "That sounds weird but if it's like, three taps and I have a t-shirt...I probably wouldn't wait in line for a long time, but I'd happily do this in five seconds."



Both WillCall and Thrillcall have those oft-repeated origin stories, as tech companies are expected to push these days.

The seeding of WillCall started while Dinch was living in Seattle a few years back and working on package design while learning "how to get good at making things on the Internet." He was sitting at his friend and now co-founder

Iulian Tescher's kitchen table listening KEXP when the Shout Out Louds came in the studio to play songs live. The band's Seattle show was that night, and Dinch, a big fan, had no idea. Bring in Julian's developer brother Patrick, along with an initial Silicon Valley investment of \$50,000 from early-stage seed fund and incubator program 500 Start-ups, and ship the whole crew down to SF in 2011.

It since has expanded to seven full-time staffers, including chief communications officer K. Tighe, who is sitting next to Dinch at Dear Mom. The company also initially included well-known local promoter Steve Brodsky, who sadly died of cancer earlier this year. And after WillCall announced its version 2.0 last month, it also announced another round of funding, to the tune of \$1.2 million in investments from the likes of Facebook and

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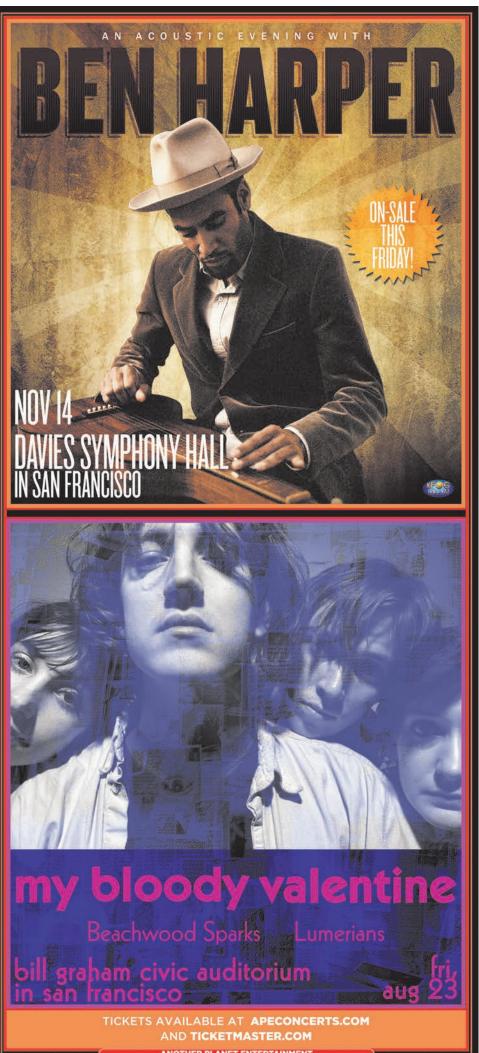


Aaron Axelsen, who runs weekly 18+ dance party Popscene. "We did it at first in a real hacky way... during the show we sent everyone a one-time thing that said like, 'If you're having fun, swipe to tip the artist' and if they didn't swipe, it was gone forever." Nearly 50 percent of the crowd tipped \$5 each. And it was money that went directly to the artist.

"Right around the time we did that we heard Amanda Palmer's TED talk," Dinch says, referring to the alt-rocker's impassioned plea suggesting artists be directly supported by fans. "And I think people really do underestimate the generosity of the crowd. Or, at the very least, underestimate the guilt the crowd feels for not paying for music properly. But I think if people thought there was an easy way to give money directly to the artist, they would do it a lot more."

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MUSIC APPS

Spotify investor and fancy wedding-haver Sean Parker, and band manager Coran Capshaw.

Thrillcall, meanwhile, was first a concert listings and ticketing website, which began in 2008. "As the industry changed, and obviously everybody uses some sort of mobile device, but the ability to find that stuff through mobile devices is prehistoric compared to the web. So that's where we moved the business because that's where people are going," Tomaszewicz says. Before that Tomaszewicz helped develop the first surfing app for Surfline. com. Thrillcall's app launched with a bang at 2012's Noise Pop festival, a sure in with the local indie pop community.

Both companies claim to be active and deeply connected to the local music communities, and for WillCall a lot of that credibility came from the connection to Brodsky.

Currently, WillCall is in San Francisco and last month launched in New York. Thrillcall is in SF, New York (where Tomaszewicz grew up), LA, and Chicago. Both are hoping to expand to other major national and even international cities within the year.

WHY BOTHER?

This is the million dollar question; why use any concert ticket apps on your phone, instead of going to the venue website or Ticketmaster. Ticketfly, etc. as you've been doing since the days of waiting in line at Tower Records?

Well, first of all there's the ease. Tap the app open then tap to purchase tickets to a (possibly) supercool show in seconds. (Your credit card info is already there, they have your email address, and your friends are alerted to your ticket purchase if you so desire.) It's fast, simple, and honestly, kind of fun. Though let's just hope the shows available are bands you want to see.

Herein lies another possible problem, which is that the shows that are chosen, or "curated," by the fine people at these companies might not be the right option for you, personally. Currently, WillCall lists a few shows through its app, and you have the option of going, but what if you don't like said bands? At press time, the offerings were Monterey's First City Festival, Sex Panther at Vessel, Paper Diamonds and Roach Gigz at 1015 Folsom, and Bells Atlas at Brick and Mortar Music Hall, among a few scattered others.

Maybe hop over to Thrillcall. While this app also only offers direct purchase to a handful of shows, many more are listed in a full calendar, and they'll send you to a third-party ticketer if you click. At press time, Thrillcall's exclusive is also, interestingly, Bells Altas at Brick and Mortar Music Hall, along with Bootie SF at DNA Lounge, and Rich Medina at New Parish. Perhaps there's something there worth checking out, maybe not.

Thrillcall also might have a deal on a show, a cheaper price from the day before, although that kind of dynamic pricing happens rarely, Tomaszewicz says. "We did stuff for Live Nation and their Mayhem festival and we interested different fans because each day in the five days leading up to the festival we had a different kind of offer: VIP, or discount, or free parking. It's anothpleasure on the night you want.

"I think if you were forced to buy your ticket three months ahead of time with your finger on the trigger of your mouse, hoping the secondary market doesn't get it before you, your expectations are through the fucking roof. You don't even know if you want to see a show that day," Tighe says excitedly. "So the idea that you decided, 'hey I want to see a show tonight,' you're in the mood to have a good time. That's a more natural approach to going to see live music than planning for months."

And for venues, it solves the question of what to do with those last 50 or 100 tickets the night before the show, so it can be a winwin situation, if it's played out right.

THE PROMOTER'S SIDE

"One of the interesting things,

PREHISTORIC."

CO-FOUNDER, THRILLCALL

"THE ENTIRE CONCERT "THE ABILITY TO FIND THAT STUFF THROUGH EXPERIENCE DOESN'T **END WITH GETTING IN." MOBILE DEVICES IS**

DONNIE DINCH, WILLCALL **CO-FOUNDER AND CEO** MATTHEW TOMASZEWICZ,

DONNIE DINCH PHOTO BY IKE EDEANI



er way to market the same show to a different group of people."

Though as mentioned earlier, Thrillcall will soon be tailor-making your show options, based on the personal preferences you offer to them.

And there's something that's specific to these types of apps, regardless of preference: they offer a this-week or right-now idea of what to do at night. As WillCall's K. Tighe points out, if you buy tickets months in advance — which is the current system for most concert-goers — you have no idea if you'll feel like going out the night of that show. With these apps, it's instant

being forced to learn about marketing in the Internet age, is that your customers will tell you where they want to be and how they want to purchase and where they want to go to find out about things," says Robbie Kowal, co-founder of Sunset Promotions (which runs Bay Area parties throughout the year like the annual Sea of Dreams NYE bash, and more frequent Silent Frisco events), and previously did PR for Optivo, a company that was developing technology for dynamic pricing. "As much as I would like people to just open our emails, they insist on making me talk to them on Facebook. So if our customer base,

for instance, showed a lot of interest in one of these services, well then we would pursue it further, So far I think they are start-ups."

"Start-ups" might just be another way of saying they don't currently make any money, and would rather throw cash — including WillCall's recent \$1.2 mil of VC funding - at building up a user base. In fact, when asked how WillCall plans to make money at all, Dinch responded with this obfuscation, "Whenever you provide these tools that make it easier for people to go to shows, get merch, get drinks at the bar, I think you'll see that the overall money spent on these things will be higher, you'll see more revenue through the venue, through the door, that's the bigger vision. So I think it's fair for us to take a small percentage of those transactions."

Adding, "We aren't currently doing that, eventually we'll do that. We want to figure out something that worked before we took money. But hopefully we've managed expectations with everyone that it's not going to be forever free."

In its most extreme form, engaging that active database of fans has involved sponsoring shows that require fans to purchase the tickets strictly through the app instead of the venue's box office or website. WillCall has done this at Rickshaw Stop with AraabMuzik and Thrillcall has at Brick and Mortar Music Hall with Thee Oh Sees. It's a simple way to strong arm a fanbase of a hip act into at least trying your app and exchanging a little bit of information. Anyone without a smartphone (In this city? Ha, I know, right?) is presumably out of luck.

And building a user base can be an end in and of itself: "Remember Going.com?" Kowal asks, "Similar thing. It was an RSVP service, and they were throwing money around at promoters, and all it really was a user grab. Basically getting an entertainment-centric user base and eventually I think they sold the company to AOL. That's a pretty smart business move."

In the meantime it's a deal for the smart (or smart phone-enabled) concert-goer, with tickets through WillCall being service charge-free. Venues — particularly ones specializing in live bands — have the most to gain from partnering with the deal. If you have five to six shows a week throughout the year, giving a portion of your tickets to a third party to promote and sell is a no-brainer. Particularly when it comes at no financial cost.

Currently WillCall is taking no cut out of the tickets they sell. Rickshaw Stop is a frequent listing and host of WillCall events, and Axelson was very clear about his support of the relationship, saying "I am a *big* fan of WillCall! Great partners with Popscene and I see instant results each week with their reach and ability to generate an extra buzz around our weekly Popscene shows (and bring out last second bodies, too)."

APP CODA

Selling tickets — especially when they're limited — isn't easy. Storytime: In 2004 the Pixies were reuniting for a tour. One of the only shows for hundreds of miles was at UC Davis, and hardcore fans traveled just to buy tickets, camping out in front of the box office. At the same time, the ability to buy tickets online had only recently been introduced and many people rolled out of bed moments before the box office opened to snag tickets from their computer. No tickets were set aside for the physical box office, though, and consequently, when the show sold out almost instantly, most of the hardcore fans with the tents and sleeping bags were out of luck.

Coming out of a culture where people stand in line to buy phones (or in this city — ice cream) but expect ticket-buying to be effortless, the current wave of apps is in danger of emphasizing the worst problems of Ticketmaster or Craigslist, giving preference based mainly on access to technology, which could underscore broader economic issues. Here's a contemporary paradox: people buying tickets for shows on smartphones to see crusty bands that don't even have smartphones themselves.

The real key may be in combining the slickness of discovery apps with ticketing systems like Ticketfly or Eventbrite. "With their analytical tools, I can determine who my best and most loyal customers are," Kowal says. "I think as the ticketing companies get better at what they do, as they begin to emulate the Ticketflys of the world, they may make a lot of these sort of startup apps irrelevant or just end up snatching up whatever little pieces of technology they have and adding them to the ticketing system."

But Dinch, at least, says he has no intention of selling his company to a broader ticket vendor. "I want this to be something that's the next pivot point of how we think about music in everyday life. And maybe that's audacious and stupid, but I'm fine for now. The bottom line is that I have no desire to sell this company to anybody and I'd rather slowly build it the right way." sfbg



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MUSIC

BY CHERYL EDDY cheryl@sfbg.com

MUSIC If you've been to a local metal show in recent months, chances are Ovvl was on the bill. If not, there was probably an Ovvl member standing next to you in the crowd. But, hesher, stop now if you've been taking 'em for granted. With a new album and tours on the horizon, the four-piece is about to be mighty scarce around these parts.

For anyone echoing the band's namesake and asking "Who?", the

first thing you need to know about Ovvl is that three-quarters of the band are related. Brothers Axell Baechle (at 18, he's the youngest member by a decade; he plays guitar and sings), guitarist-vocalist K. Baechle, and drummer Clint Baechle were destined to play music together, though the band was only complete

when bassist Melanie Burkett came aboard. Ahead of a busy day of filming its first video, then playing a show after, Ovvl paused to reflect on family bonding, Rush album art, and the action-packed months ahead.

SF Bay Guardian What makes brothers form a band?

Axell Baechle [K.] and I started playing music together when I was, like, 12, but it never really amounted to anything. A few years later, Clint had more time because he wasn't playing in eight bands anymore. **Clint Baechle** We were all at our parents' house one Christmas. They had the songs written, so we recorded the original demo tape and released it. Lo and behold, people liked it. That lead to us getting the band together for real. Melanie saw us play our first show, when we didn't even have a bass player. Melanie Burkett I believe Axell was

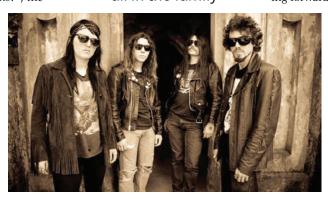
simultaneously smoking a joint and playing riffs in his boxers on top of a Marshall stack. And I was like, "Hey Clint, I want to be in your band, man." I kept bugging him, until one day he was like, "We're playing shows next month! Learn the songs! Let's go!" **CB** And there was no turning back.

SFBG How does being related affect the dynamic?

CB For us, it's great. I've been playing music with [K.] since we were very young children. Axell came along musically after I'd moved out of our parents' house, so we developed a musical relationship later. But what we have now is almost what you might

Flyin'high

Ovvl keep it (almost) all in the family



call a telepathy. We finish each other's riffs, finish each other's sentences. K. Baechle Finish each other's

beers ...

AB Actually, just mostly that. There's not really anything else. **MB** After we had done a couple of tours, the boys started treating me like their sister. Growing up with two brothers, it was an easy role for me. Although we're not blood related, we still argue like we are. [Laughs.]

SFBG Is the new album similar to your previous releases [including 2012's self-released Owl]?

KB This second album's more math-y. More intricate riffs, a little bit less diffuse.

AB It's a bit more Maiden than Sabbath. Less jammy.

CB More complex. A little less swords-and-sorcery. We've been recording it over the past year with Kurt Schlegel at Lucky Cat Studios. Kurt does a lot of live sound [recording], so we have a really live-sounding record. The mixing is almost done and it sounds great — it should be out before the end of the year.

SFBG What's the story behind the name? **AB** I think it came from continuous viewing of the second Rush album cover.

CB [Agreeing.] Rush is the band that made owls badass for heavy metal. [As for the spelling,] we got a ceaseand-desist order from an LA band called Owl, which was annoying to say the least. But we've been gradually phasing in an alternate spelling of our name, and we haven't heard anything from that lawyer since then.

SFBG Where's the tour going to take you? **MB** Through the western United States for three weeks. Plus, Tijuana — it's our first time in Mexico. But we're really focused on going to Europe, which is slated to be a sixweek tour. I think it will be a changing point in our career, getting a lot of new people into our music. CB We self-released our first album, and I think we shipped more records to Europe than the US. We're looking forward to playing for all these

people who've been supporting us.

SFBG Do you have a preference between house shows and shows at established venues? [Visit www.owlbrotherhood. net for info on house shows, including a Fri/23 Oakland gig.] KB My favorite is Bender's — the best crowd.

CB In my opinion, nothing beats a great house show, though. Playing in somebody's living room or basement. I'll never get sick of it.

SFBG How does Ovvl fit into the Bay Area metal scene?

MB We fit into a few different genres. We've played shows with psychedelic, metal, punk, and rock bands, and those elements are within almost every Ovvl song. Most recently we played with Slough Feg. which was awesome — I think that was pretty much right on as far as matching genres go.

CB I think that the Bay Area has always had one of the best metal scenes in the world, and it's cool just to be a part of it, even if it's a small part. It's a fun scene to be in, because there are cool bands and the people here are really into metal and they're really into music.

SFBG *Is there an Ovvl band philosophy?* **CB** Have a good time. *all* the time [laughs]. If it's anything, it's just 'Do what we feel like doing.' We play retro stoner metal right now, but if we felt like turning the band into a hip-hop crew, we would do that too. It's not about doing a certain style — it's about doing what's fun for us and what we enjoy most. sfbg

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mbv4-ever

Two decades after its landmark album, My Bloody Valentine returns to SF ------

BY TAYLOR KAPLAN

arts@sfbg.com

MUSIC This is the reunion for which we dared not hope. Until this year, My Bloody Valentine's genre-defining masterstroke of the shoegaze movement, 1991's *Loveless*, was the last we had heard from the Irish-English band, and as a result, it was canonized as one of those pristine, "perfect" albums, frozen in time and untainted by inferior follow-ups.

And then, this past Groundhog Day, the unthinkable happened: after an excruciating, 22-year wait,

and countless broken promises, bandleader Kevin Shields casually posted a new record, *mbv*, on the web, *In Rainbows* style, surprising his diehard fans with the legendary third album they had been hopelessly fantasizing about only a week before.

This Friday, My Bloody Valentine will pay a visit to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium for their first SF show since the early '90s.

Headed up by Shields (the band's mastermind, principal guitarist, and sometimes-vocalist), and backed by Bilinda Butcher

on guitars and vocals, Deb Googe on bass, and Colm Ó Ciosóig on drums, My Bloody Valentine kicked off its career in 1983 as a rather inconsequential, punk-ish pop band, before moving on to bigger things.

The You Made Me Realize EP and the group's first full-length, Isn't Anything, (both released in 1988) showed great promise, layering Jesus and Mary Chain-ish guitar squalls atop tender pop songs, with androgynous, barely intelligible vocals submerged in the surrounding fuzz. Equally seductive and menacing, this was the sound of the shoegaze genre taking form.

The subsequent release of *Loveless* presented a vivid realization of Shields' musical vision, full enough to put him in a state of creative paralysis for the next two decades, unsure of where to go next. The songs were more harmonious this time around, often reminiscent of Brian Wilson in their structures and chord progressions. Also, the guitar sound was more rounded and hypnotic than ever before; songs like "Loomer" and "Come In Alone" found Kevin Shields using his "glide guitar" method to great effect, constantly pushing and pulling on the tremolo arm of his Fender Jaguar for a woozy, undulating sound, inviting the listener to get blissfully lost in the midst of it all. Upon its release, and even to this day, *Loveless* presented some of the most tactile, emotionally complex guitar rock ever committed to tape.

With the exception of a cover for a Wire tribute album, some soundtrack work for Sofia Coppola's *Lost In Translation*, the occasional collaboration with Primal Scream or Patti Smith, and a brief reunion tour in 2009, Shields and My Bloody Valentine remained stagnant from '91 to February of this year. Over the course of those two decades, *Loveless* has built the kind of reputation normally reserved for recordings of the Beatles era;

even Phish's Trey Anstasio has proclaimed it the greatest album of the '90s. *Loveless'* seminal blend of pop purity and uncompromising noise has spawned a thousand imitators, but no worthy successor, rendering the release of *mbv* an uncommonly big deal in the music world, even in a year dominated by comeback efforts, from David Bowie to Boards of Canada.

Despite the skeptical fans, who doubted Shields' ability to recapture his singular sound or take it into new realms, the response to *mbv* was resoundingly positive. Tracks like "who sees you" and "only tomorrow" found Shields and

Co. approaching the monolithically woozy *Loveless* aesthetic with a fuller, beefier production sound. Halfway through the record, "new you" blindsided the listener as the cleanest, poppiest song of My Bloody Valentine's career, seemingly lifted from a party scene in a '90s teen movie. "in another way" found the band channeling the angular jolt of the *Isn't Anything* era, while "wonder 2" suggested a new path forward, blending drum 'n' bass-y electronics with Shield's famed "jet-engine" guitar sound.

Part of *mbv*'s appeal stems from

its utter disregard for modern trends and developments in the music world. This isn't the sound of My Bloody Valentine recalibrated for the new millennium; the entire album sounds like it could've been recorded and produced in '96, and as a result, we listeners have no idea what was recorded in the mid-'90s, and what was made last year. The listening experience, especially in that first week after its release, was poignant and affecting, like reuniting with a friend you haven't seen in two decades, and picking up right where you left off. Few records can make you feel 15 again the first time you press play, and *mbv* was one of them.

While the band's recent live dates have incorporated new songs into the mix, many things have remained the same: namely, its infamous closer "You Made Me Realize," the title track from its first great EP, with a 20-minute, endurance-testing wall of noise tacked on the end. The song's live rendition has made ears bleed around the world, and remains a hallmark of My Bloody Valentine's live shows.

Amazingly enough, over 20 years have passed since Shields and Co. made their last tour stop in SF. Now, in 2013, they're back, with a followup to *Loveless* in tow, befitting of that album's legendary reputation. It's been a long time coming, but My Bloody Valentine has reemerged to save rock 'n' roll all over again. Bring earplugs; it'll get *loud*. SFBG

MY BLOODY VALENTINE

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Product placement

BY MARKE B.

marke@sfbg.com

super EGO Anyone who's gone to grab my ass and resurfaced 20 minutes later with a handful of vintage Safeway plastic bags and several torn free condom wrappers holding pre-chewed wads of Gonzo Grape Bubblicious knows I'm not really into "bling," as the kids from 1997 say. Who needs \$525 Alejandro Ingelmo gold-trimmed "Tron" sneakers when you can just wear discarded DSW boxes! Cheap and proud lady right here.

Yet when it comes to music, I'll skip that second vegan cheeseburger and lay my pocket money down for great sound. A few years ago, a \$99 pair of Bose IE2 Audio earbuds changed my life. "Oh," I recall exclaiming aloud. "This is that 'bass' that people keep talking about." And my vinyl addiction has reached Lohan-ic heights of insanity, minus all that fake tan and meh.

Thus the jaw basically dropped when I stepped into the new **Dijital Fix** store in the Mission (820 Valencia, SF. www.dijitalfix.com), which specializes in terribly hip and yummy stereo equipment. Gorgeous transparent speakers by People People, retro-orange Crosley portable USB turntables, hypersleek AIAIAI Tracks headphones ... big, big puddle of electronic drool.

Dijital Fix is a Brooklyn transplant, and we already have a couple of great homegrown, high-end audio product stores with **Audiovision** (1603 Pine, SF. www.audiovisionsf. com) and **House of Music** (410 Harriet, SF. www.houseofmusicsf. com). The Fix, however, may be more approachable than those excellent specialty spots, especially to the uninitiated looking for a candy-colored stereo starter kit with Space Age Bachelor Pad sex appeal. I'll take three of everything to go.

SOUL CLAP

Ah, Burning Man — it brings all the DJs to the yard. On their way to Black

Rock City: Boston's finest, Soul Clap, and their bros in excellent recombinant '90s tunes Wolf + Lamb (see below). Clappers Elyte and Cnyce once helped redefine the history of dance music by daring to play the rarest slow jams — "Yes We Still Play Vinyl" is the name of this appearance — perfectly contextualized into acid house and Boyz II Men grooves. They got sidetracked by trying to become pop stars themselves, but they're still sexy and fun on the decks.

Wed/21, 9pm, \$10-20. Monarch, 101 Sixth St., SF. www.monarchsf.com

120 MINUTES THREE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The goth-rap, crunk-funk, witch-dizzle monthly celebrates a triple, with host Marco de la Vega's inimitable mind-altering aplomb. Local face-melting bass hero Salva headlines, while resident DJs Santa Muerte and Chauncey CC drag out everything from Wocka to Skinny Puppy. Congrats.

Fri/23, 10pm, \$15. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, SF. www.facebook.com/120minutes

STEAN

Who doesn't want to spend Friday night surrounded by men in wet towels? Frisky promoter Walter Gomez's packed monthly, charitable, steam-themed party with special guest DJ Rolo is the terrycloth ticket. Yes, it's gay and half-naked, but it's also not happening on the Internet, so it feels subversive. Plus: good dancing, and it benefits the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Fri/23, 10pm, \$5. Powerhouse, 1347 Folsom, SF. www.tinyurl.com/steam0813

WOLF + LAMB

The high-end hotel parties and breathless press (guilty!) were always a little suspect, but the music Gadi and Zev were putting out at the end of the '00s counterbalanced the dominant astringency of minimal techno with a juicy eroticism rooted in nostalgia. They've still got it. With DJ Tennis and Adnan Sharif at the awesome Forward party,

returning to SF after many moons. Fri/23, 9pm-4am, \$15. Mighty, 119 Utah, SF. www.forwardsf.com

BEATBAAAHS

There's going to be a giant gay sheep with laser eyes and a slide shooting out of its behind on the playa this year. BAAAHS ("big-ass amazingly awesome homosexual sheep") is the first official queer Burning Man art car, with a booming system to match its woolly balls. And yes, here's yet another BM fundraiser, this one featuring some great local and "other" queer techno talent taking over Beatbox: Stereogamous, TATU V, Doc Sleep, Jason Kendig, Mark Louque, and more, hosted by SF's queer burneratti. Putting a queerer stamp on the rapidly gender-normalizing playa seems like a good CAAAHS. Fri/23, 10pm-4am, \$10. Beatbox, 314 11th St, SF. www.baaahs.org

"CRASH AN INDIAN WEDDING RECEPTION"

One of the glorious monthly Non Stop Bhangra party's grand-slam theme nights: start with a bhangra flash mob in the Mission then proceed down to Public Works, where singer and dhol drum master Ustad Lal Singh Bhatti of Black Mahal whips the simulated "wedding reception" crowd into a frenzy. (Indian weddings are insane.) Dance lessons, DJs, and the Curry Up Now truck round out a unique night of cultural fun.

Sat/24, 9pm-3am, \$15. Public Works, 161 Erie, SF. www.nonstopbhangra.com

MAURICE FULTON

The Baltimore-via-Sheffield production wiz has a magic touch when it comes to arty-funky disco vibes in a contemporary context. (Or hey, sometimes he just drops brilliantly freaky slices like Mim Suleiman's rapturous *Nyuli* album on us, for kicks.) At Honey Soundsystem.

Sun/25. 10pm, \$10. Holy Cow,

1535 Folsom, SF. www.honeysoundsytem.com **sfbg**

WEDNESDAY 21

ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: Bad Weather California, Sauna, Skating Polly, 9 p.m., \$10.

Cafe Du Nord: Silent Comedy, Leopold & His Fiction, Tropics, 8 p.m., \$12.

Elbo Room: Rue '66, Hampton Wicks, Gregors, Hemlock Tavern: Origami Ghosts, Windham Flat,

Modern Kicks, 8:30 p.m., \$6. Knockout: Tender Buttons, Ppls Tmpl, Jake,

Milk Bar: Emily & The Complexes, 8 p.m., \$7.

DANCE

Cat Club: "Bondage A Go Go," \$5-\$10. **F8:** "Housepitality," 9 p.m., \$5-\$10. Lexington Club: "Friends of Dorothy," 9 p.m., free Lookout: "What?," 7 p.m. Madrone Art Bar: "Rock the Spot," 9 p.m., free.

Make-Out Room: "Burn Down the Disco," 9 p.m., Monarch: "Yes, We Still Play Vinyl," 9 p.m., \$10-\$20.

Q Bar: "Booty Call," 9 p.m., \$3. Showdown: "Nokturnal," 9 p.m., free.

HIP-HOP

Double Dutch: "Cash IV Gold," 10 p.m., free.

ACOUSTIC

Cafe Divine: Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod,

Johnny Foley's Irish House: Terry Savastano, 9 p.m.,

Plough & Stars: Pat Hamilton, 9 p.m.

JAZZ

Amnesia: Gaucho, Eric Garland's Jazz Session, The

Amnesiacs, 7 p.m., free. **Burritt Room**: Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio,

Club Deluxe: Patrick Wolff, Every other Wednesday.

8:30 p.m., free. Le Colonial: The Cosmo Alleycats, 7 p.m., free. Savanna Jazz Club: "Cat's Corner," 9 p.m., \$10. Sheba Piano Lounge: Michael Parsons Trio, 8 p.m. Top of the Mark: Ricardo Scales, 6:30-11:30 p.m.,

INTERNATIONAL

BeatBox: "Salsa-XS." gueer salsa night. 8 p.m. Bissap Baobab: Timba Dance Party, 10 p.m., \$5. Cafe Cocomo: "Bachatalicious," 7 p.m., \$5-\$10. Pachamama Restaurant: "Cafe LatinoAmericano,"

REGGAE

Yoshi's San Francisco: Rankin Scroo, 8 p.m., \$15-\$19.

BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: HowellDevine, 8 & 10 p.m., \$15.

SOUL

Boom Boom Room: "Soul Train Revival," 9:30 p.m.,

Royal Cuckoo: Freddie Hughes & Chris Burns,

THURSDAY 22

ROCK

Boom Boom Room: Koobi Fora, Soul Pie, 9:30 p.m., \$5 advance

Bottom of the Hill: Lemme Adams, Cool Ghouls, Black Cobra Vipers, 9 p.m., \$10. S.F. Eagle: Scary Little Friends, Jail Weddings, Sweet Felony, 9 p.m., \$8.

Hemlock Tavern: Greater Sirens, 8:30 p.m., \$6. The Knockout: Habibi, Dancer, Glitz, 10 p.m., \$5. Milk Bar: Electric Shepherd, Brent Amaker & The Rodeo, Fox & The Law, Electric Magpie, 8 p.m. Monarch: Hangover Brigade, Vela Eyes, Tall Sheep, Ultra Violent Rays, 8 p.m., \$8.

Red Devil Lounge: Pharaohs, Sol Doc, Shape, 8 p.m., \$8-\$10.

Slim's: Melvins, Honky, 9 p.m., \$22. Audio Discotech: "Phonic," 9:30 p.m.
Aunt Charlie's Lounge: "Tubesteak Connection," 9 p.m., \$5-\$7.

NEWS

OPINION

CONTINUES ON PAGE 32 >>







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TUE AUG 27 8:30PM \$7

SUN FOOT (Awesome Vistas) Mike Donovan (Sic Alps) Franklin's Mint

WED AUG 28 8:30PM \$7

FRONDS
Is/Is (Minneapolis), Locomotive

THU AUG 29 8:30PM \$6

TALKATIVE (Portland), Mutassa Wet Dreams Dry Magic

FRI AUG 30 9PM \$12

PINK COLLAR COMEDY TOUR (NYC) Special Guest Caitlin Gill

SAT AUG 31

BUBBLES ON FIRE BURLESQUE presents "America's Got Tease"

UPCOMING: Steel Cranes (rec. rel.), Tik Tok, Field Trips, Mines (Chicago), All Your Sisters, Roses (membs. Abe Vigoda), Here

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THURS. AUG. 22 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$22 ADV. / \$22 DOOR

MELVINS HONKY

SUN. AUG. 25 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$15 ADV. / \$18 DOOR SHWAYZE PAUL COUTURE

FRI. AUG. 30 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$17 ADV. / \$20 DOOR

FRI. AUG. 30 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$17 ADV. / \$20 DOOR

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THE HOUND KINGS (ALABAMA MIKE,

ANTHONY PAULE, SCOT BRENTON),

CATHY LEMONS (WITH STEVIE GURR)

& WITH PAUL OLGUIN ON BASS

& PAUL REVELLI ON DRUMS

SAT. AUG. 31 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$30 ADV. / \$30 DOOR

ANDRE NICKATINA

KRAYZIE BONE

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THURS. AUG. 22 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$26 ADV. / \$26 DOOR ROKY ERICKSON **CELLAR DOORS**

DJ SET BY JOEL GION OF BRIAN JONESTOWN MASSACRE

FRI. AUGUST 23 GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV SOLD OUT - THANK YOU!

SAT. AUG. 24 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$16 ADV. / \$16 DOOR STATED!
THE BITCHSLAP! COMEDY SHOWCASE FEATURING

ZAHRA NOORBAKHSH• LYDIA POPOVICH ELOISA BRAVO•ANNA SEREGINA•JESSICA SELE HOSTED BY KIMBERLY ROSE WENDT

MON. AUG. 26 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$21 ADV. / \$21 DOOR

DEERHUNTER **AVEY TARE'S SLASHER FLICKS LONNIE HOLLEY**

THURS. AUG. 29 • DOORS 7 / SHOW 8 • \$25 ADV. / \$30 DOOR AN EVENING WITH

THE REUNION BEATLES: **FANTASY TRIBUTE**

SAT. AUG. 31 • DOORS 8 / SHOW 9 • \$15 ADV. / \$15 DOOR PERFORMER MAGAZINE PRESENTS

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ckets for both clubs available at both box offices. All ticket sales are final-no exchanges/refunds. Limited access/s

upcoming shows a

THU. AUG. 22 - FREE SHOW IN THE CHAPEL BAR! DOORS 7, SHOW 8:30

TED AND THE TEDTONES

FRI. AUG. 23 - \$20 ADV / \$22 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9 RHETT MILLER (OF OLD 97'S) NANCARROW

SAT. AUG. 24 - \$16 ADV / \$18 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9 **SILA**

SAMBADÁ · DJ MPENZI

SUN. AUG. 25 - BRUNCH 11AM - 3PM
MISSION SOUL SUNDAY
FEAT. MOTOWN ON MONDAYS DJS GORDO & TIMO

FRI. AUG. 30 - \$12 ADV / DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
LOST BAYOU RAMBLERS THE SWINGING DOORS

SAT. AUG. 31 - \$15 ADV / \$17 DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9 [[[folkYEAH!]]] PRESENTS

SONNY & THE SUNSETS SHANNON AND THE CLAMS WARM SODA

WED. SEPT. 4 - \$15 ADV / DOOR - DOORS 8, SHOW 9
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CONT>>

BeatBox: "Jukebox," w/ DJ Page Hodel, 9 p.m., \$10. **Cat Club:** "All '80s Thursdays," 9 p.m., \$6 (free before 9:30 p.m.).

Elbo Room: "Afrolicious," 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8. **EndUp:** EDMSF Thursdays, 10 p.m., \$10. Madrone Art Bar: "Night Fever," 9 p.m., \$5 after

Public Works: Official Bay Area Pre-Party for the Symbiosis Gathering, 9 p.m., \$15-\$20. **Q Bar:** "Throwback Thursday," 9 p.m., free. **Rickshaw Stop:** Ghost Beach, Strange Talk, 9:30 p.m., \$14-\$16.

Underground SF: "Bubble," 10 p.m., free. Vessel: "Base," w/ Jesse Rose, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10.

50 Mason Social House: DLRN, JB Nimble,

Knowmatik Soulz, Big Vic, 10 p.m., \$5 John Colins: "#Quattro," 9 p.m. Skylark Bar: "Peaches," 10 p.m., free.

ACOUSTIC

50 Mason Social House: Usual Suspects Songwriter Showcase, 7 p.m., free.

Atlas Cafe: JimBo Trout & The Fishpeople, 8 p.m.,

free. Yoshi's San Francisco: Firefall, 8 p.m., \$23-\$27.

JAZZ

Bottle Can: North Beach Sound with Ned Boynton. Jordan Samuels, and Tom Vickers, 7 p.m., free. Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Kermit Ruffins & The BBQ Swingers, 9 p.m., \$15-\$20.

Club Deluxe: Michael Parsons, 8:30 p.m., free. Le Colonial: Steve Lucky & The Rhumba Bums,

Royal Cuckoo: Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free. Savanna Jazz Club: Eddy Ramirez, 7:30 p.m., \$5. Sheba Piano Lounge: Gary Flores & Friends, 8 p.m Top of the Mark: Stompy Jones, 7:30 p.m., \$10.

INTERNATIONAL

Bissap Baobab: "Pa'Lante!," 10 p.m., \$5.
Pachamama Restaurant: "Jueves Flamencos,"

8 p.m., free. **Verdi Club:** The Verdi Club Milonga, 9 p.m., \$10-

BLUES

50 Mason Social House: Bill Phillippe, 5:30 p.m.,

Biscuits and Blues: Frank Bey, 8 & 10 p.m., \$15. Tupelo: G.G. Amos, 9:30 p.m., free.

FRIDAY 23

ROCK

Boom Boom Room: Go Ahead, Shivers, CelloJoe, 9:30 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Bottom of the Hill: Sunrunners, Curious Quail, Father President, 9:30 p.m., \$10.

Cafe Du Nord: Truth & Salvage Co., 9:30 p.m., \$12 **Knockout:** Youthbitch, Cyclops, Primitive Hearts, Elvis Christ, Pookie & The Poodlez, 6 p.m., \$5. Make-Out Room: Billy Cramer & Share the Land, Delmarva, 7:30 p.m., \$8.

Milk Bar: Swamees, Horsmas, J.C. & The Loyal Groove, Huntinanny, 8:30 p.m., \$10.

Neck of the Woods: Chain Gang of 1974, Humans,

Mighty Mouse, 9 p.m., \$12-\$15.

DANCE

1015 Folsom: "Re:Creation," 10 p.m., \$20-\$25. **4Fourteen:** "Helix 4th Fridays," 10 p.m., \$20. **Audio Discotech:** DJ Nile, DJ Remeddy, 9:30 p.m. BeatBox: Stereogamous, Jason Kendig, Tatu Vuolteenaho, Mark Louque, 10 p.m., \$5-\$10. Cat Club: "Dark Shadows," 9:30 p.m., \$7. DNA Lounge: "Frequency 8," 7 p.m., \$15-\$25. Elbo Room: "120 Minutes: 3-Year Anniversary," 10 p.m., \$10-\$15.

EndUp: "Fever," 10 p.m., free before midnight. F8: "Vintage," w/ DJ Toph One & guests, 5 p.m.,

Harlot: "Beat Connect," 9 p.m., \$10-\$15 advance.

Lookout: "HYSL," 9 p.m., \$3.

Madrone Art Bar: "I the '90s," 9 p.m., \$5.

Mezzanine: "Lights Down Low," 9 p.m., \$15-\$20. Mighty: "Forward," 9 p.m., \$15-\$25. Public Works: "Burner Bon Voyage," 9 p.m.,

Q Bar: "Pump: Word It Out Fridays," 9 p.m., \$3. Sub-Mission Art Space: "Warm Leatherette," w/

Chasms, 10 p.m., \$5. **Temple:** M.I.K.E., John Beaver, Niko Zografos, Bardia F, ThuyVu, Rishi K, 10 p.m., \$20.

Vessel: "Night Lab," 10 p.m., \$10 advance.

HIP-HOP

DNA Lounge: Main Attrakionz, Friendzone, Chad Salty, 9 p.m., \$10. John Colins: "#Flow," w/ The Whooligan & Mikos Da

Gawd, 10 p.m., free befoe 11 p.m. **Showdown:** "Fresh Greens," 10 p.m., free.

ACOUSTIC

Chapel: Rhett Miller, Nancarrow, 9 p.m., \$20-\$22. Independent: Nahko & Medicine for the People, Saritah, 9 p.m., \$15.

Plough & Stars: Savannah Blu, 9 p.m. Rickshaw Stop: Naked Soul, La Gente, Robin Applewood, Sang Matiz, 8 p.m., \$9-\$12. **Thee Parkside:** Parmesans, Before the Brave, Garden Party, Greg Downing, 9 p.m., \$10.

Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Kermit Ruffins & The BBQ Swingers, Jazz Mafia, 9 p.m., \$15-\$20. **Cafe Royale:** Robert Kennedy Organ Trio, 9 p.m. Royal Cuckoo: Jules Broussard, Danny Armstrong, and Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free. Savanna Jazz Club: Carol Luckenbach, 7:30 p.m.,

Sheba Piano Lounge: Sebastian Parker Quartet,

Top of the Mark: San Francisco, Black Market Jazz Orchestra, 9 p.m., \$10.

Yoshi's San Francisco: Donald Byrd Acoustic & Electric Sessions, 8 & 10 p.m., \$26-\$30.





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INTERNATIONAL

Amnesia: Baxtalo Drom, 9 p.m., \$5-\$10. Bissap Baobab: Trio Troubadour, 7 p.m., free. Little Baobab: "Paris-Dakar African Mix Coupe

Pachamama Restaurant: Cuban Night, 7:30 & 9:15 p.m., \$15-\$18.

The Ramp: "Samba Soirée," 6 p.m. Slate Bar: "Chevere: Jamaican Edition," 10 p.m.

BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: Mighty Mo Rodgers, 8 & 10 p.m., \$22

Boom Boom Room: Bill Phillippe, 6 p.m., free.

EXPERIMENTAL

Center for New Music: Miniatures for Reed Quintet and Electronics, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$15. **Hemlock Tavern:** Sutekh Hexen, Blue Sabbath Black Cheer, Eye of Nix, 9:30 p.m., \$7.

FUNK

Make-Out Room: "Loose Joints," 10 p.m., \$5.

Edinburgh Castle: "Soul Crush," 10 p.m., free. El Rio: Kofy Brown Band, 10 p.m., free.
Underground SF: "Sissy Strut," 10 p.m., \$3-\$5.

SATURDAY 24

ROCK

Bender's: Owl. Crag Dweller, 10 p.m., \$5 Bottom of the Hill: O'Brother, Native, Daylight, 9:30 p.m., \$12

El Rio: Loudmouths, Idiots, Jack Saints, 10 p.m.,

Hemlock Tavern: Spyrals, Super 78!, 9:30 p.m., \$8. Knockout: "Shine On," 9 p.m., \$7.
Rickshaw Stop: Majical Cloudz, Moon King, Some

Ember, 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Thee Parkside: MDC, Nihilist Cunt, Bum City Saints, Judas Bunch, 9 p.m., \$10.

DANCE

111 Minna Gallery: "Barracuda," 10 p.m., \$10. BeatBox: "I Just Wanna F*ckin Dance: 2-Year Anniversary Ball," 10 p.m.

Cat Club: "Villainy: The Dance Club with a Dark

Side," 9:30 p.m., \$5-\$8. **DNA Lounge:** "Bootie S.F.," 9 p.m., \$10-\$15. S.F. Eagle: "Sadistic Saturdays," 10 p.m., free. EndUp: "Shangri-La: Sailors & Seamen Cruise," 10 p.m., \$20.

"Trap City," 10 p.m., \$15.

Harlot: Le Youth, Tropicool, Pacific Disco, 9 p.m.

Lookout: "Bounce!," 9 p.m., \$3.

Mezzanine: Flume, Touch Sensitive, 8:30 p.m., \$20. Mighty: Verdugo Brothers, Revonoc, 10 p.m., \$10. Milk Bar: "Spilt Milk," 9 p.m., \$5.

Monarch: Bill Patrick, 10 p.m., \$10-\$15 Public Works: "Resonate," 9 p.m., \$5-\$10. Temple: "Life," 10 p.m., \$20.

Vessel: Chris Garcia, John Beaver, 10 p.m., \$10-\$30.

HIP-HOP

Elho Room: Masta Ace, Wordsworth, BPos, Otayo Dubb, Rebel Allianz, 9 p.m., \$10-\$15. John Colins: "Nice," 10 p.m., \$5.

Madrone Art Bar: "House Party," 9 p.m., \$5. Slate Bar: "So Fresh." 10 p.m.

ACOUSTIC

Atlas Cafe: Craig Ventresco & Meredith Axelrod,

4-6 p.m., free.

Bazaar Cafe: The Hill People, 7 p.m. Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Andrew Belle, Grizfolk,

8 p.m., \$10-\$12. Cafe Du Nord: Slow Motion Cowboys, Secret Town, The Silver Threads, Hang Jones, 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Make-Out Room: Mica Lee Williams, Joel Murach & The Low Rollers, 7:30 p.m., \$8. Plough & Stars: Steve Taylor-Ramírez Band, 9 p.m.,

JAZZ

Cafe Royale: Anna Estrada, 9 p.m. Rite Spot Cafe: Mr. Lucky & The Cocktail Party, 9 p.m., free.

Royal Cuckoo: Jules Broussard, Danny Armstrong, and Chris Siebert, 7:30 p.m., free.

Verdi Club: Slim Jenkins, 29th Street Swingtet, Cole Walker & His Rhythm, 8 p.m., \$10.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 34 >>>







SONDRA PRODUCTIONS AND TEMPLE IN ASSOCIATION WITH TRANCE FAMILY SF PRESENT: M.I.K.E.



SUN 8/25

SUNSET ARCADE







ROTTOM OF THE HILL

. 19-23 SEPTEMBER 2013 . OA

CONT>>

Yoshi's San Francisco: Donald Byrd Acoustic & Electric Sessions, 8 & 10 p.m., \$26-\$30.

INTERNATIONAL

1015 Folsom: "Pura." 9 p.m., \$20. Chapel: Sila, SambaDá, DJ Mpenzi, 9 p.m., \$16-\$18. El Rio: "Mango," 3 p.m., \$8-\$10. Little Baobab: "Paris-Dakar African Mix Coupe

Decale," 10 p.m. Make-Out Room: "El SuperRitmo," 10 p.m., \$5. Pachamama Restaurant: Peña Eddy Navia & Pachamama Band, 8 p.m., free. Public Works: "Non Stop Bhangra," 9 p.m., \$10-\$15.

BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: Chris Cain, 7:30 & 10 p.m., \$20. Riptide: Mr. Chin's Hot Sauce, 9 p.m., free,

SOUL

Boom Boom Room: Otis, 9:30 p.m., \$12. Edinburgh Castle: "Nightbeat," w/ DJs Primo, Lucky, 9 p.m., \$3.

SUNDAY 25

ROCK

8:30 p.m., \$8.

Bottom of the Hill: Fever Charm, Dangermaker, Koruscant Weekend, 9 p.m., \$10. Brick & Mortar Music Hall: Black Hole Oscillators, Jeffertiti's Nile, 8 p.m., \$7-\$10.

Cafe Du Nord: Little Comets, Oceanography, Sea Knight, 7:30 p.m., \$10-\$12.

DNA Lounge: Wintersun, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Arsis, Starkill, 6 p.m., \$22-\$25 Hemlock Tavern: Destruction Unit, Wax Idols,

Thee Parkside: Indie Mart, noon, \$3.

DANCE

440 Castro: "Sunday Furry Sunday," 4-10 p.m., \$1. **Edge:** "'80s at 8," 8 p.m.

Elbo Room: "Dub Mission," 9 p.m., \$6. EndUp: "T.Dance," 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; "Local Love," 8 p.m.

F8: "Stamina Sundays," 10 p.m., free. Holy Cow: Honey Soundsystem, 9 p.m., \$5. Knockout: "Sweater Funk," 10 p.m., free.

Lookout: "Jock," 3-8 p.m., \$2.
Mezzanine: Escort, Magic Touch, 8 p.m., \$15-\$18. Otis: "What's the Werd?," 9 p.m., \$5. Q Bar: "Gigante," 8 p.m., free.

Stud: "Cognitive Dissonance," 6 p.m.

Temple: "Sunset Arcade," 18+ dance party with bar games and video arcade, 7 p.m., \$5.

HIP-HOP

Boom Boom Room: "Return of the Cypher," 9:30 p.m., free.

Slim's: Shwayze, Paul Couture, 8 p.m., \$15-\$18.

ACOUSTIC

Club Deluxe: Musical Mayhem with the Dimestore

Dandy, 5:30 p.m., free.

Milk Bar: John Roy Zat & The Don't Look Back String

Band, Sauce Piquante, 4 p.m., free.

Plough & Stars: Seisiún with Marla Fibish, 9 p.m.

Biscuits and Blues: Roberta Donnay, 7 & 9 p.m., \$15. Cafe Divine: Mario Guarneri, Last Sunday of every month, 7 p.m.

Club Deluxe: Jay Johnson, 9 p.m., free Madrone Art Bar: "Sunday Sessions," 10 p.m., free. Revolution Cafe: Jazz Revolution, 4 p.m., free.

Royal Cuckoo: Lavay Smith & Chris Siebert,

7:30 p.m., free. Savanna Jazz Club: Eric Tillman, 7 p.m., \$5

INTERNATIONAL

Bissap Baobab: "Brazil & Beyond," 6:30 p.m., free. El Rio: "Salsa Sundays," 3 p.m., \$8-\$10. Ramp: Rolando Morales, 5:30 p.m. Union Square Park: 333 Post, San Francisco Trio Garufa, 2 p.m., free.

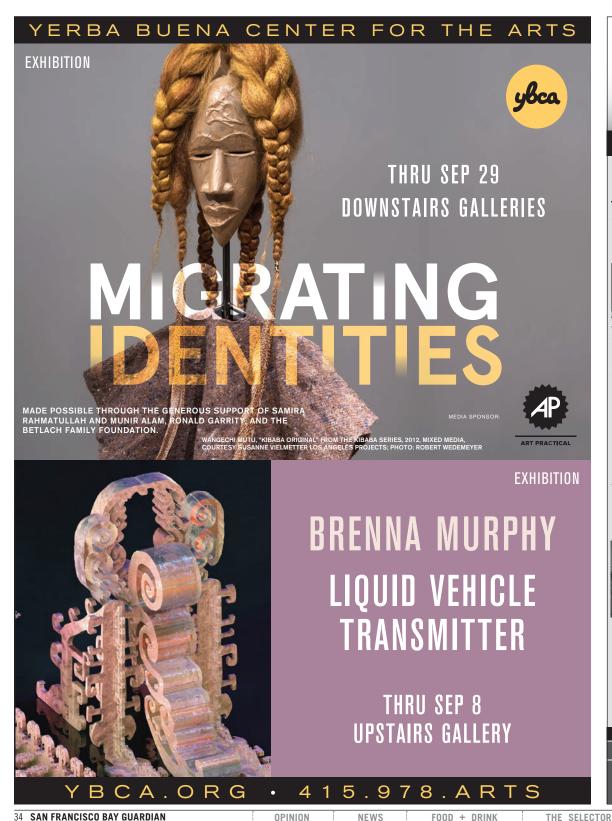
BLUES

Revolution Cafe: HowellDevine, 8:30 p.m., free Sheba Piano Lounge: Bohemian Knuckleboogie,

COUNTRY

Tupelo: "Twang Sunday," 4 p.m., free.

EXPERIMENTAL





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Wed, Aug 28 - Singer-songwriter, multiinstrumentalist and American Idol finalist (Season 10)

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25th Anniversary Tour & Soul Quest CD Release Party

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Fri, Aug 23 - Late Show

ENTOURAGE

Sat, Aug 24

LARRY CORYELL:

ACOUSTIC & ELECTRIC RETROSPECTIVE III

feat. Cindy Blackman Santana

Sun, Aug 25 - Noon - 5pm

YOSHI'S JAZZFEST on the Waterfront

Sun, Aug 25

TALK OF DA TOWN

Mon, Aug 26

CALVIN KEYS



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BEN SOLLEE

Thu, Aug 29

AMY HANAIALI'I

Fri, Aug 30

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ARTS + CULTURE CLASSIFIEDS FILM

Center for New Music: Addleds Sound Laboratory #1, 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Lab: "Godwaffle Noise Pancakes," 7:30 p.m., \$10.

Chapel: "Mission Soul Sundays," musical brunch with M.O.M. DJs, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Independent: Selah Sue, Bushwalla, 8 p.m., \$15.

Yoshi's San Francisco: Swamp Dogg, 7 & 9 p.m.,

MONDAY 26

DANCE

DNA Lounge: "Death Guild," 9:30 p.m., \$3-\$5. Independent: How to Dress Well, 8 p.m., \$15. Q Bar: "Wanted," 9 p.m., free. Underground SF: "Vienetta Discothegue " 10 p.m. free

ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: Pick Bluegrass Jam, 6 p.m., free; Earl Fiddler's Green: Terry Savastano, 9:30 p.m.. free

Le Colonial: Le Jazz Hot, 7 p.m., free. Sheba Piano Lounge: Eric Wiley, 8 p.m.

REGGAE

Skylark Bar: "Skylarking,"10 p.m., free.

FUNK

Cafe Du Nord: "Soul Bingo," 7:30 p.m., \$5-\$10.

Madrone Art Bar: "M.O.M. (Motown on Mondays)," 8 p.m., free.

TUESDAY 27

ROCK

Bottom of the Hill: Bad Bad, Nasty Christmas, 9 p.m., \$8.

El Rio: Brent Amaker & The Rodeo, Fox & The Law, Thundercult, 7 p.m., \$5.

Grant & Green Saloon: West, Amalgamation, 9 p.m. Hemlock Tavern: Sun Foot, Mike Donovan, 8:30 p.m., \$7.

Knockout: Tony Molina, Synthetic ID, Violent Change, Love Devotion, 9:30 p.m., \$7. Sub-Mission Art Space: Global Affront, Moovalya, INFM, Elegant Trash, 8 p.m., \$5.

DANCE

Aunt Charlie's Lounge: "High Fantasy," 10 p.m., \$2. Monarch: "Soundpieces," 10 p.m., free-\$10.

Q Bar: "Switch," 9 p.m., \$3. **Underground SF:** "Shelter," 10 p.m., free.

ACOUSTIC

Amnesia: Kacey Johansing, Sandy's, Bill Baird,

Bazaar Cafe: Wilson Wong, 7 p.m. Plough & Stars: Cormac Gannon, 9 p.m. Rite Spot Cafe: Toshio Hirano, 8:30 p.m., free.

JAZZ

Burritt Room: Terry Disley's Rocking Jazz Trio, 6 n m free

Cafe Divine: Chris Amberger, 7 p.m. Club Deluxe: Eugene Warren Trio, 8:30 p.m., free. Revolution Cafe: West Side Jazz Club, 5 p.m., free. Sheba Piano Lounge: Michael Parsons, 8 p.m. Verdi Club: "Tuesday Night Jump." w/ Stompy Jones, 9 p.m., \$10-\$12.

Yoshi's San Francisco: Tommy Igoe Big Band, 8 p.m., \$22.

INTERNATIONAL

F8: "Underground Nomads." 9 p.m., \$5.

BLUES

Biscuits and Blues: Tia Carroll & Hard Work, 8 & 10 p.m., \$15. Boom Boom Room: Dr. Mojo, 9:30 p.m., free

EXPERIMENTAL

Center for New Music: Seth Cluett, sfSoundGroup, 7:49 p.m., \$7-\$10. **sfbg**





WED. AUGUST 21

MONARCH PRESENTS

SOUL CLAP WE STILL PLAY VINYL TOUR 2013

THU. AUGUST 22

THE HANGOVER BRIGADE

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FRI. AUGUST 23

LET LOOSE WITH:

THE WHOOLIGAN + DJ SHORTKUT

SAT. AUGUST 24

MONARCH PRESENTS

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(SUPPLEMENT FACTS)

DJ M3

(GREEN GORILLA)

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AND SPECIAL GUEST CITIZEN ZAIN (KALX)

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WED

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UPCOMING

THU 8/29 AFROLICIOUS

FRI 8/30 THE HOP SAT 8/31 SWEATER FUNK

SUN 9/1 DUB MISSION 17TH ANNIVERSARY

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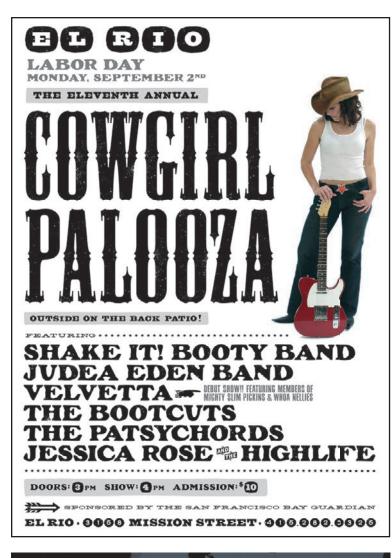
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ARTS + CULTURE





Sublime nonsense

With Wet the Hippo, big-top veteran John Gilkey and associates explore the big bottom

BY ROBERT AVILA arts@sfbg.com

THEATER The sets are gone, and the costumes, and that giant blue-and-yellow tent. Master clown and performance maker John Gilkey has ended his fourth stint with Cirque du Soleil since 1996. But if the wiry, often wildhaired Gilkey is no stranger to the big time, he moves just as ferociously through a bare stage in a small venue wear-

ing not much more than, these days, a bushy beard.

It's been three years since Gilkey last performed in San Francisco — flanked by comedians Alec Jones-Trujillo and Donny Divanian, the deadpan naïfs of his avant-comedy trio, We Are Nudes. Just as the very funny

yet vaguely unnerving, off-center style of Nudes occupied some indeterminate territory between sketch comedy and Dadaist destruction, Gilkey's latest venture the Los Angeles-based eight-member improvisational ensemble known as Wet the Hippo — takes its audience beyond the usual endpoints of improv.

Born out of his Idiot Workshop classes in clown, Wet the Hippo is a big, brand-new baby of a beast, only four months old but charging forward

with gusto — and an edgy, searching brilliance Gilkey is clearly thrilled with. He is frankly in love with his cast members, with whom he interacts as director, prodding them from onstage and off. Ahead of their first tentative tour (a three-stop zero-budget swing through Arcata, Placerville, and SF), Gilkey picked up the phone from his LA roost to talk Hippo-thetically.

SF Bay Guardian Wet the Hippo is quite a change from Cirque du Soleil, more low-to-the-ground, very much autonomous. **John Gilkey** Yeah, what we're doing now — there's eight of us, there's no budget. Low-to-the-ground is a good way to put it.

SFBG *It's a big contrast, but maybe there are similarities?* **JG** One way I describe the show: I'm taking everything I learned from Cirque about the creation process they have. (Although I should be clear about that: the creation process changed after Franco [Dragone] left.) But I was on Franco's creative team for [his independent Las Vegas spectacular] Le Rêve —I've taken that process and I've applied that to this 10-dollar-a-ticket show with eight people. It's an amazing contrast. And in some ways it's quite similar.

When I'm working with the performers, I work with them similarly to Franco in that he's trying really to get to the nut of the person. His number one question is, "Who are you?" He's trying to figure out what is it about this person that's interesting. Their strengths, their weaknesses, their physicality, their voice, all this stuff

— how can we magnify this person into an interesting stage presence? I do that with my little cast here.

SFBG It's an improvised show, but it's clearly not the Harold, or other improv forms we're familiar with.

JG It's something new that we're trying to do, so we're learning about it, discovering it as we go forward, as we search. It's an evolving process. But what I'm looking for as the director, both offstage and onstage — or the conductor-director when I'm onstage — is to try to get everybody buzzing, ringing, in tune, and then see how they harmonize. I think when we hit, it is music. It's on a level you can't quite put into words. This is when we succeed. We don't always succeed. Part of the show is us

CIRQUE DU

BERSERK:

WET THE HIPPO

JEAN-LOUIS DARVILLE

searching for that, which is also fun. We play a lot with success and failure. When we're failing we try to really make sure that we acknowledge it and somehow use it to our advantage.

SFBG How can failure work to your advantage? **JG** One thing we're discovering is that the highs aren't as high if the lows aren't as low. So that's one reason to fail. And I tell people when we're rehearsing or in the classes that I teach (all of this

came out of these classes): This is the spirit of clown. You're always looking to get yourself into danger. You want to be in danger. That's where the drama really comes. Instead of pretending, we try to really get into

SFBG This is an exploration that goes beyond the usual endpoints — something riskier, unknown?

JG In standard improv, in standard comedy, you're going for the laugh, always. I believe there's something that is greater than the laugh. Maybe the easiest way to say it is that it's the sublime. And the way to get to the sublime is to ask an actor to play at their most genius level — either absolute smartest or absolute stupidest. It's not a linear progression from stupid to genius; it's circular. It's where they meet. It's where the genius in you meets the idiot in you that you become so beautiful that you hit sublime. It's beyond laughter. It's the moment where you get your mind blown. sfbg

WET THE HIPPO

Mon/26-Tue/27, 7:30pm, \$10

Venue TBD ("Look for the skinny violinist at 22nd St and Valencia at 7:30pm; you will be escorted to the venue from there"), SF

www.wetthehippo.com

For an extended version of this interview, visit www.sfbg.com/pixel_vision.

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ARTS + CULTURE STAGE LISTINGS

Stage listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Rita Felciano, and Nicole Gluckstern. Submit items for the listings at listings@sfbg.com. For complete stage listings, visit www.sfbg.com.

THEATER

OPENING

American Dream New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness, SF; www.nctcsf.org. \$35-45. Previews Wed/21-Fri/23, 8pm. Opens Sat/24, 8pm. Runs Wed Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. Through Sept 15. A recently divorced and recently out architect falls in love with his Spanish teacher — and tries to bring him from Mexico to California — in this world premiere by Brad Erickson at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. **Priscilla Queen of the Desert the Musical** SHN Orpheum Theatre, 1192 Market, SF; www.shnsf. com. \$45-210. Opens Wed/21, 8pm. Runs Tue-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, Aug 28, and Aug 30, 2pm); Sun/25, 1 and 6:30pm. Through Aug 31. The Aussie movie-turned-musical about road-tripping drag queens rolls into San Francisco for a limited engagement.

RAV ADEA

Good People Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller, Mill Valley; www.marintheatre.org. \$37-58. Previews Thu/22-Sat/24, 8pm; Sun/25, 7pm. Opens Tue/27, 8pm. Runs Tue and Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Aug 31 and Sept 14, 2pm; Sept 5, 1pm); Wed, 7:30pm; Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Sept 15. Marin Theatre Company performs the Bay Area premiere of David Lindsay-Abaire's Broadway triumph about class and poverty. Other Desert Cities Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mtn View; www.theatreworks.org. \$19-73. Previews Wed/21-Fri/23, 8pm. Opens Sat/24, 8pm. Runs Tue-Wed, 7:30pm; Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Sept 15. TheatreWorks performs Jon Robin Baitz's family dramedy, a Broadway hit making its regional premiere here.

ONGOING

Can You Dig It? Back Down East 14th — the 60s and Beyond Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$15-50. Sat, 8:30pm; Sun 7pm. Extended through Sept 8. (Runs Sept 14-Oct 27 at the Marsh Berkeley.) Don Reed's new show offers more stories from his colorful upbringing in East Oakland in the 1960s and '70s. More hilarious and heartfelt depictions of his exceptional parents, inde pendent siblings, and his mostly African American but ethnically mixed working-class community — punctuated with period pop, Motown, and funk classics, to which Reed shimmies and spins with effortless grace. And of course there's more too of the expert physical comedy and charm that made long-running hits of Reed's last two solo shows, East 14th and The Kipling Hotel (both launched, like this newest, at the Marsh). Can You Dig It? reaches, for the most part, into the "early" early years, Reed's grammar-school days, before the events depicted in East 14th or Kipling Hotel came to pass. But in nearly two hours of material, not all of it of equal value or impact, there's inevitably some overlap and indeed some recycling. Reed, who also directs the show, may start whittling it down as the run continues. But, as is, there are at least 20 unnecessary minutes diluting the overall impact of the piece, which is thin on plot already - much more a series of often very enjoyable vignettes and some painful but largely unexplored observations, wrapped up at the end in a sentimental moral that, while sincere feels rushed and inadequate. (Avila)

In Friendship: Stories By Zona Gale Z Below, 470 Florida, SF; www.zspace.org. \$20-50. Wed-Thu, 7pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm. Through Sept 8. Word for Word performs Zona Gale's "comedy of American manners."

God of Carnage Shelton Theater, 533 Sutter, SF; www.sheltontheater.com. \$26-38. Thu-Sat, 8pm. Thursup Sept 7. Shelton Theater performs Yasmina Reza's award-winning play about class and parenting. Gold Rush! The Un-Scripted Barbary Coast Musical Un-Scripted Theater Company, 533 Sutter, Second FIr, SF; www.un-scripted.com. \$10-20. Thu/22-Sat/24, 8pm. The Un-Scripted Theater Company performs an improvised musical about gold-rush era San Francisco.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch Boxcar Theatre, 505 Natoma, SF; www.boxcartheatre.org. \$27-43. Thu-Sat, 8pm. Open-ended. John Cameron Mitchell's cult musical comes to life with director Nick A. Olivero's ever-rotating cast.

How to Make Your Bitterness Work for You Stage Werx Theatre, 446 Valencia, SF; www.stagewerx.org. \$15-25. Mon/26-Tue/27, 8pm. Kent Underwood is a motivational speaker and self-help expert with some



AMY RESNICK AND MARK ANDERSON PHILLIPS IN GOOD PEOPLE AT MARIN THEATRE COMPANY PHOTO BY ED SMITH

obvious baggage of his own in this solo play from former comedy writer and stand-up comedian Fred Raker (It Could Have Been a Wonderful Life). The premise, similar to that of Kurt Bodden's Steve Seabrook: Better Than You (ongoing at the Marsh), has the audience overlapping with participants in an Underwood seminar. Underwood, however, two vears on the seminar circuit and still unable to get his book published, deviates from the script to answer texts related to a possible career breakthrough. Meanwhile, with the aid of some bullet points and illustrative slides, he explains the premise of said manuscript, "How to Make Your Bitterness Work For You," as the sad truth of his own underdog status emerges between the laugh lines. But where Bodden is careful to make his Seabrook a somewhat believable character despite the absurdity of it all (or rather, while firmly embracing the absurdity of the self-help industry itself), Raker and director Kimberly Richards put much more space between the playwright/ performer and his character, which turns out to be a less effective strategy. Verisimilitude might not have mattered much if the comic material were stronger Unfortunately, despite the occasional zinger, much of the humor is weak or corny and the narrative (interrupted at regular intervals by an artificial tone representing the arrival of a fresh text message) too contrived to sell us on the larger story. (Avila) Marius Southside Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D, SF; www.generationtheatre.com. \$20-35. Thu/22-Sat/24, 8pm; Sun/25, 3pm. GenerationTheatre performs R. David Valayre's new English translation of Marcel Pagnol's classic about a man who dreams of traveling the seas.

So You Can Hear Me Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$15-50. Fri/23, 8pm; Sat/24, 5pm. A 23-year-old with no experience, just high spirits and big ideals, gets a job in the South Bronx teaching special ed classes and quickly finds herself in over her head. Safiya Martinez, herself a bright young woman from the projects, delivers this inspired accounting of her time not long ago in perhaps the most neglected sector of the public school system — a 60-minute solo play that makes up for its slim plot with a set of deft, powerful, lovingly crafted characterizations. These complex portraits, alternately hysterical and startling, offer their own moving ruminations on a violent but also vibrant stratum of American society, deeply fractured by pervasive poverty and injustice and yet full of restive young personalities too easily dismissed, ignored. or crudely caricatured elsewhere. An effervescent, big-hearted, and very talented performer, Martinez boasts a bounding personality and contagious passion for her former students (as complicated as that relationship was), and makes this deeply felt tribute

all the more memorable. (Avila) **Steve Seabrook: Better Than You** Marsh San Francisco, 1062 Valencia, SF; www.themarsh.org. \$15-50. Sat/24, 8:30pm. Self-awareness, self-actualization, self-aggrandizement — for these things we turn to the professionals: the self-empowerment coaches, the self-help authors and motivational speakers. What's the good of having a "self" unless someone shows you how to use it? Writer-performer Kurt Bodden's Steve Seabrook wants to sell you on a better you, but his "Better Than You" weekend seminar (and tie-in book series, assorted CDs, and other paraphernalia) belies a certain divided loyalty in its

own self-flattering title. The bitter fruit of the personal growth industry may sound overly ripe for the picking, but Bodden's deftly executed "seminar" and its behind-the-scenes reveals, directed by Mark Kenward, explore the terrain with panache, cool wit, and shrewd characterization. As both writer and performer, Bodden keeps his Steve Seabrook just this side of overly sensational or maudlin, a believable figure, finally, whose all-too-ordinary life ends up something of a modest model of its own. (Avila)

Sweet Bird of Youth Tides Theatre, 533 Sutter, Second FIr, SF; www.tidestheatre.org. \$20-40. Wed/21-Sat/24, 8pm. Tides Theatre performs Tennessee Williams' Gulf Coast-set drama about an improbable couple.

BAY AREA

All's Well That Ends Well Forest Meadows Amphitheater, 890 Bella, Dominican University of California, San Rafael; www.marinshakespeare. org. \$20-37.50. Opens Sat/24, 8pm. Presented in repertory Fri-Sun through Sept 28; visit website for performance schedule. Marin Shakespeare Company continues its outdoor season with the Bard's classic romance.

A Comedy of Errors Forest Meadows Amphitheater, 890 Bella, Dominican University of California, San Rafael; www.marinshakespeare. org. \$20-37.50. Presented in repertory Fri-Sun through Sept 29; visit website for performance schedule. Marin Shakespeare Company presents a cowboy-themed spin on the Bard's classic.

Lady Windermere's Fan Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda; www. calshakes.org, \$35-62. Tue-Thu, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm (also Sept 7, 2pm); Sun, 4pm. Through Sept 8. California Shakespeare Theater performs Oscar Wilde's comedy.

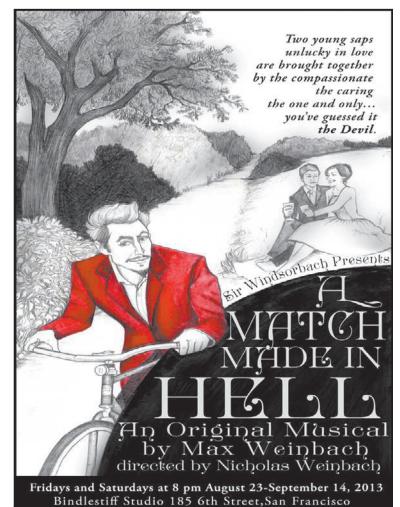
No Man's Land Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison, Berk; www.berkeleyrep. org. \$35-135. Tue and Thu-Sat, 8pm (also Thu and Sat, 2pm; no matinee Aug 29); Wed, 7pm (also Aug 28, 2pm); Sun/25, 2pm. Through Aug 31. Acting legends and erstwhile X-Men Patrick Stewart and lan McKellen star in this pre-Broadway engagement of Harold Pinter's play.

Orlando Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck, Berk; www.theatrefirst.com. \$10-30. Thu-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5pm. Through Sept 15. TheatreFIRST performs Sarah Ruhl's gender-shifting comedy, which takes place over a span of 300 years.

The Wiz Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College, Berk; www.berkeleyplayhouse.org. \$17-60. Wed/21-Thu/22 and Sat/24, 7pm (also Sat/24, 2pm); Sun/25, noon and 5pm. While there are some nods to the political climate of today made by the creative team behind the Berkeley Playhouse's production. they mostly steer clear of making any kind of overt statements, even in regards to the all black casting (now thoroughly integrated). Similarly, many of the trappings of the 1970s have also been axed in favor of more fanciful. almost cartoonish, costuming and choreography. It's long for a children's musical, clocking in at around two-and-a-half hours, but that seems no deterrent to the plucky Wiz Kidzyouth ensemble. Grown-up voices of special note belong to Taylor Jones as Dorothy, Nicole Julien as Aunt Em/Glinda, Amy Lizardo as Addaperle, Reggie D. White as Tin Man, and Sarah Mitchell as Evillene. (Gluckstern) sfbg







For ticket information please visit matchmadeinhellmusical.com

OPINION NEWS FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR MUSIC ARTS + CULTURE FILM CLASSIFIEDS AUGUST 21 - 27, 2013 / SFBG.COM 37





FRIDAY NIGHTS AT THE de Young













Something Aeria

Enjoy an enchanting mix of live Brazilian music and classic American jazz by Jazz Bliss Brazil. Join Emma Acker, assistant curator of American art, for an insightful lecture on the work of Richard Diebenkorn, and Carlo Abruzzese for an artist demonstration exploring the cultural landscapes of the Bay Area.

deyoungmuseum.org/fridays

Images (clockwise from top left): Photograph by Adrian Arias; photograph courtesy of Jazz Bliss Brazil; photographs by Justine Highsmith; photograph by Marissa Sonkin; © Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

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ARTS + CULTURE ON THE CHEAP



SALVADOR SANTANA PLAYS YOSHI'S JAZZFEST, FREE IN JACK LONDON SQUARE SUN/25. PHOTO BY ENTROPIC STUDIO

On the Cheap listings are compiled by Guardian staff. Submit items for the listings at listings@ sfbg.com. For further information on how to submit items for the listings, see Selector.

WEDNESDAY 21

"Myths and Truths About Going Solar: Is Now A Good Time?" Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo, Berk; www.ecologycenter.org. 7-9pm, donations accepted. Transition Berkeley hosts a panel of experts for this discussion of residential solar power. Questions from the audience are encouraged.

Graham A. Rayman Books Inc., 1760 Fourth St, Berk; www.booksinc.net. 7pm, free. The author discusses his crooked-cop exposé *The NYPD Tapes*.

THURSDAY 22

Tony Johnson, Bill Weinreb Books Inc., 1344 Park, Alameda; www.booksinc.net. 7pm, free. The authors read from their respective books: Johnson's The Captain and Mr. Shrode and Weinreb's The Gift of Sleep. "Poetry Thursdays" Readers Bookstore, Fort

"Poetry Thursdays" Readers Bookstore, For Mason Center, Bldg D, Room 165, SF; www. friendssfpl.org. 6:30pm, free. Readings by poets Gary Hicks and Doreen Stock.

"Summer Stories" LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market, SF; facebook.com/outloudradio. 7pm, free. LGBTQ youth radio organization OutLoud Radio celebrates the release of podcasts by its summer 2013 youth producers.

FRIDAY 23

Gary Soto Books Inc., 1344 Park, Alameda; www.booksinc.net. 7pm, free. The Pulitzer Prize-nominated poet reads from his memoir, *What Poets Are Like*.

SATURDAY 24

Carolyn Cooke Book Passage, 1 Ferry Bldg, SF; www.bookpassage.com. 6pm, free. The award-winning author reads from her 11-story collection *Amor and Psycho*.

"Peace in the Park" Golden Gate Park Bandshell, SF; www.peaceintheparksf.org. 11am-6pm, free. At this "festival to energize your inner peace," expect world music and folk-dance performances; uplifting guided activities like yoga, meditation, and juggling; and exhibits highlighting peace efforts around the world. Treasure Island Flea Market Great Lawn,

Treasure Island Flea Market Great Lawn, Avenue of the Palms, Treasure Island; www.treasureislandflea.com. 10am-4pm, \$3. Through Sun/25. Shop over 300 locally curated vendors, including food (over 15 food trucks, y'all), crafts, collectibles, antiques, and more. Also, the view across the water is awesome.

20th Street Block Party 20th St between

Aurrison and Bryant, SF; Facebook: 20th Street Block Party. Noon-6pm, free. Noise Pop curates the bands at this family-friendly block party (Two Gallants headlines; music from 1-6pm), which also features delicious food (it's the Mission, duh) for sale by Trick Dog, flour + water, Central Kitchen, and other buzz worthy spots.

Kitchen, and other buzz worthy spots.

J. Maarten Troost Books Inc., 2251 Chestnut, SF; www.booksinc.net. 7pm, free. Books Inc. and the San Francisco Travel Book Club co-host this reading of the travel writer's latest memoir, Headhunters on My Doorstep.

SUNDAY 25

Free National Park Day Various locations; nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm. It's the National Park Service's birthday, but it's giving a gift to you: free entry and parking at Muir Woods, and Yosemite waives its \$20 per car fee. Visit the website to check out reduced and free rates at other parks within driving distance.

Yoshi's Jazzfest Jack London Square, Harrison at Water, Oakl; www.jacklondonsquare.com. Noon-5pm, free. Waterfront musical performances by Salvador Santana, Julian Coryell Trio, Dos Four, and the Oakland Jazz Workshop Performance Ensemble.

TUESDAY 27

"From Tesla to Tomorrow: A Monthly Film and Discussion Series on Energy Issues" Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar, Berk; www.bfuu.org. 7pm, \$5-10 suggested donation. Screening and discussion of the film Tesla and the Race to Zero Point Energy, sponsored by the BFUU Social Justice Committee.

"Historypin: Year of the Bay" St. Philip's Catholic Church, 725 Diamond, SF; www.san-franciscohistory.org. 7:30pm, \$5. Longtime SF resident Jon Voss discusses Historypin, described as a "not-for-profit online history project" that aims to help users share photos, stories, and audio and visual recordings. This presentation focuses on San Francisco history and includes then-and-now slide shows and an interactive map of the city.

Joyce Maynard Booksmith, 1644 Haight, SF; www.booksmith.com. 7:30pm, free. The author reads from her new novel, *After Her.*

"Radar Reading Series" San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin, SF; www.radarproductions. org. 6pm, free. Michelle Tea hosts this monthly series of readings by underground and independent writers and artists. This edition features Dodie Bellamy, Alejandro Murguía, Stephen Boyer, and Carmella Fleming. SFBG

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BLEAK IN THE HEART OF TEXAS: ROONEY MARA IN SAINTS PHOTO COURTESY OF IEC FILMS

BY CHERYL EDDY

cheryl@sfbg.com

FILM "This was in Texas," reads the hand-lettered opening of Ain't Them Bodies Saints. It's a fittingly homespun beginning to a film that pays painstaking homage to bygone-era cinema. After its Sundance Film Festival premiere, writer-director David Lowery's first high-profile release earned frequent comparisons to 1970s works by Robert Altman and Terrence Malick. That's no accident; Saints openly feasts upon the decade's intimate, sun-burnished neo-Westerns.

Between Saints' fastidiously retro style and murder-ballad story (bank robber breaks out of jail to reunite with his sweetheart and their young daughter - only to find his romantic ideals clash with his doomed reality), one might suspect Lowery takes himself extremely seriously. Scroll through his Twitter feed, however, and you'll spot this unpretentious zinger: "In exactly one month, our very gentle remake of Con Air will be opening in theaters nationwide."

When I bring this up in a phone interview, Lowery unleashes a hearty guffaw. "I was shocked to realize that's exactly what it is," he jokes. "But ours is definitely more gentle. I'll just leave it at that."

Though Saints earned praise on the film-fest circuit for its craftsmanship, its big-name cast — Casey Affleck and Rooney Mara as the lonely, longing lovers; Keith Carradine as a shopkeeper with a dark past; Ben Foster as a cop who pines for Mara's character — is likely what will pique mainstream interest. But will pre-release hype translate to a Beasts of the Southern Wild-style breakthrough? In the week before Saints' theatrical release, Lowery (whose best-known previous credit is probably editing *Upstream Color*) finds himself in a state of suspended anticipation.

"It's very surreal," he admits. "I'm pinching myself on a pretty regular basis. It feels like we just finished shooting the movie, and the fact that it's about to be in theaters around the country is a very strange idea! I hope that when people go see it, regardless of what they are expecting to see, they'll get onto the movie's wavelength in a quick enough fashion and go along for the ride. It's a very unique and singular movie that's trying to do something very specific, and once you adjust to that I think it will be a very satisfying experience."

Lone stars

Old-fashioned 'Ain't Them Bodies Saints' claims a new genre: neo-neo-Western noir



Truth be told, Saints is not actually that unique — it will inspire déjà vu in anyone who's seen 1973's Badlands, for instance, A devout cinephile, Lowery openly acknowledges Saints' debt to what came before. "I wanted to take a lot from other things. I wanted to make a movie that felt like it was participating in a tradition of storytelling, particularly in movies but even going back to folk songs and old history lessons," he says. "I wanted to find a new approach to telling a classic story — so I wanted to use everything that other movies had already done as the platform from which I was going to tell my story."

He continues. "In [Saints], you don't see the bank robbery or the prison break, and that's because we've seen those things happen before. We've seen the movie where the guy and the girl go on a crime spree, and I want to use the fact that people know that story already. It's a benefit to this movie, to have [the knowledge of earlier movies] be the context in which Saints then moves forward on its own."

Saints' storytelling keeps to a very deliberate pace, a quality owing to Lowery's background as a film editor. "As an audience member, I

enjoy getting the time and space to figure out things for myself," he says. "Everything was very intentional, whether it's a line of dialogue or a little detail hidden in the back of the screen. My job as a filmmaker is to create a context in which you are able to become alert to those details. Whenever you're getting a movie that deprives you of certain expected beats, there's an adjustment — but I think that everyone is [eventually] able to understand. It helps that we're telling a very simple, traditional, old-fashioned story. And the way in which we tell it is hopefully where it becomes fresh and somewhat modern."

Modern storytelling may be one thing, but Saints' dipped-in-amber, outlaw-chic mise-en-scène — 10-gallon hat tips to cinematographer

Bradford Young, production designer Jade Healy, and composer Daniel Hart (whose score, bedecked with handclaps and banjos, is practically a character in the film) — is overtly antique-y.

"I keep saying I wanted this movie to feel old. I wanted it to feel like it participated in a tradition that has existed for a long time," Lowery explains. "To do that, I think you have to look to the past. Even by starting off the movie with 'This was in Texas' — it's all in the past tense. Just having that sense of a time that has already passed is, I think, helpful to understanding the tone of the movie. It has an elegiac tone. We wanted the whole thing to feel like embers that are burning out."

Saints takes place over four years, though we're never told which years. Clearly, it's a period piece — and not accidentally, its vaguely defined time frame hews to when the films that influenced it were released.

"We picked the 1970s because there were a lot of great '70s movies," Lowery explains. "Even on a subconscious level, if you have that association, it's helpful in calibrating the audience's expectations as to what type of movie this is going to be. But beyond that, all the wardrobe is pre-1970s. Everything Rooney [Mara] wears is from the 1940s and '50s, and we really tried to blend time periods and move further back into the past from that. But that was our cutoff point, the 1970s. There's no denying that any associations that we get from that are hopefully beneficial." SFBG

AIN'T THEM BODIES SAINTS opens Fri/23 in SF.



Guardian arts writers preview the season's upcoming concerts, theater and dance events, gallery and museum shows, video games, film openings, and album releases. Plus: our annual guide to the Bay Area's fall fairs and festivals.

> Advertising Deadline: FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2013

Issue Date-WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2013

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OPINION FOOD + DRINK THE SELECTOR MUSIC ARTS + CULTURE CLASSIFIEDS AUGUST 21 - 27, 2013 / SFBG.COM 39



BY DENNIS HARVEY

arts@sfbg.com

FILM At least since *Grey Gardens* in 1975 provided a peek at mother-and daughter eccentrics living in squalor — distinguished from your average crazy cat ladies by being closely related to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis — there's been a documentary subgenre devoted to, well, weirdos. Errol Morris and Werner Herzog have devoted a sizable chunk of their output to them, those people who might make you nervous or annoyed if they lived next door but are fascinating to gawk at for 90 minutes or so. Like Cate Blanchett's fictional wack job in *Blue Jasmine*, their dysfunctionality is entertaining at a safe distance.

The protagonists in Zachary Heinzerling's *Cutie and the Boxer* aren't nuts, but they've been together over four decades without their problems really changing or getting any better. Ushio "Gyu-Chan" Shinohara was a somewhat notorious artist in Japan's fertile avant-garde scene of the 1960s — we see footage of him sporting a Mohawk early in that decade, non-conformity already in full flower. His "neo-Dadaist" work already consisted largely of grotesque pop-art sculptures made out of found junk and large-scale canvases that, in a variation on Pollock's action painting, he executed by battering paint onto them with boxing gloves. (When he finishes one, he raises his aims in triumph, like Rocky Balboa.)

In 1969 this wild man decided he needed a bigger stage, so he moved to New York. An early 1970s TV documentary excerpted here calls

Scenes from a marriage

'Cutie and the Boxer' showcases one artistic couple's functional dysfunction

him perhaps "the most famous of the poor and struggling artists in the city," noting that while his often outsized work gets a lot of attention,

people seldom actually want to buy it. This is a situation that, we soon learn, hasn't altered much since.

Gyu-Chan was 41 when he met wife Noriko, a 19-year-old art student also from Japan. She was swept up in the "purity" of his art and lifestyle; within six months she was preg-

nant with their only child, Alex (also a talented visual artist). In hindsight, she flatly tells us "I should have married a guy who made a secure living and took responsibility for what he did."

We first meet the duo on his 80th birth-day. It's hardly a conventionally comfortable old age — in a tone so weary it can hardly be classified as nagging, Noriko reminds him that they're late with the rent on their fairly large yet cluttered Brooklyn apartment-studio, and the utilities are about to be cut off for lack of payment. You get the feeling all this is business-as usual, and that the cheerful, oblivious, still-energetic Ushio would've been out on the

street years ago if not for her insistence that he actually make some money once in a while.

It's a classic dysfunctional-yet-still main-

taining marital dynamic: the
easygoing, charming, eternal bad boy herded about
as successfully as a cat on
a leash by the long-suffering wife. He no longer
drinks — having stopped
on doctor's orders just a
few years ago — but he's
still a manboy making
junk-art mock motorcycles

and pounding large canvases ... and not making much money. His reputation remains incongruously far greater than his means, even if we see a Guggenheim representative ponder making a purchase of one of his "historical" pieces.

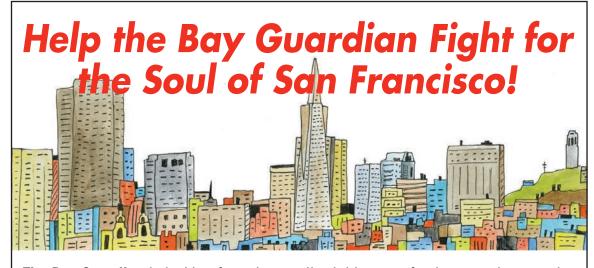
Meanwhile Noriko, who one senses has long resented living under the shadow of this larger-than-life figure, feels she's finally escaped his influence in her own work. (It doesn't help that, when acknowledging that she's his occasional, reluctant assistant, Gyu-Chan confides "The average one has to support the genius.") She's working on a series of narrative, cartoon-like drawings depicting the titular "Cutie" and "Bullie" — bla-

tant stand-ins for herself and Ushio, chronicling her long saga of disillusionment as a classic "good girl" who married a bad boy, to the detriment of her own art and the child she had to raise with "drunk adults hanging around him all the time." (It is one of the film's frustrations that we never really get Alex's perspective on this, though he's clearly a wary veteran of his parents' misbehaviors and judgments.)

If her husband is discomfited by this exposure of their private life — even when the "Cutie" series (which is turned into simple animation throughout the documentary) is exhibited in conjunction with his own latest gallery show — he doesn't show it. But then, she does the fretting for both of them.

A quiet, almost meditative portrait of messy lives, Cutie and the Boxer doesn't really answer the question of why these two remained together despite all (her) dissatisfaction. When he accepts an invitation to go to Japan — cramming a couple of small sculptures carelessly in his suitcase to sell while there — she says "suddenly the air clears" whenever he's gone, and we see her lighten up considerably while showing a fellow Japanese expat friend her latest work. But you get the feeling Noriko, while hardly an emotional open book, loves her burdensome, unruly spouse more than she'd admit. Or at least she's accepted the "struggle" of life with him as her own goading raison d'être. You know the saying: life is short, art is long. SFBG

CUTIE AND THE BOXER opens Fri/23 in SF.



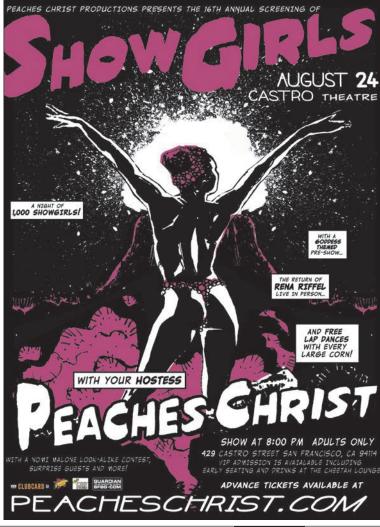
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SLANT MAGAZINE

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WORLD'S END

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FILM LISTINGS

Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy Reviewers are Kimberly Chun, Dennis Harvey, Lynn Rapoport, and Sara Maria Vizcarrondo, For rep house showtimes, see Rep Clock. For complete film listings, visit www.sfbg.com

OPENING

Ain't Them Bodies Saints See "Lone Stars." (1:45) California, Smith Rafael. **Austenland** Jane (Keri Russell) is a Jane Austen fanatic who finds real-life modern romance highly lacking as compared to the fictive Regency Era variety — though having a life-sized cutout of Colin Firth as Mr. Darcy in her bedroom surely didn't help recent relationships. After yet another breakup, she decides to live her fantasy by flying to England to vacation at the titular theme park-fantasy role play establishment, where guests and staff meticulously act out Austen-like scenarios of well-dressed upper class leisure and chaste courtship. Upon arriving, however, Jane discovers she's very much a second-class citizen here, not having been able to afford the "platinum premium" package purchased by fellow guests. Thus cast by imperious proprietor Mrs. Wattlesbrook (Jane Seymour) as the unmarriage-able "poor relation," she gets more flirtatious vibes from the actor cast as sexy stable boy (Bret McKenzie) than the one playing a quasi-Darcy (JJ Feild), at least initially. Adapting Shannon Hale's novel, Jerusha Hess (making her directorial bow after several collaborations with husband Jared Hess, of 2004's Napoleon Dynamite) has delightfully kitsch set and costume designs and a generally sweet-natured tone somewhat let down by the very broad, uninspired humor. Even wonderful Jennifer Coolidge can't much elevate the routine writing as a cheerfully vulgar Yank visitor. The rich potential to cleverly satirize



all things Austen is missed. Still, the actors are charming and the progress lively enough to make Austenland harmless if flyweight fun (1:37) Albany, SF Center, Sundance Kabuki. Cutie and the Boxer See "Scenes from a Marriage." (1:22) Opera Plaza, Shattuck Long Distance Revolutionary: A Journey with Mumia Abu-Jamal Or, almost everything you ever wanted to know about the guy who inspired all those "Free Mumia" rallies, though Abu-Jamal's status as a cause célèbre has become somewhat less urgent since his death sentence — for killing a Philadelphia police officer in 1981 was commuted to life without parole in 2012. Stephen Vittoria's doc assembles an array of heavy hitters (Alice Walker, Giancarlo Esposito, Cornel West, Angela Davis, Emory Douglas) to discuss Abu-Jamal's life, from his childhood in Philly's housing projects, to his teenage political awakening with the Black Panthers, to his career as a popular radio journalist — aided equally by his passion for reporting and his mellifluous voice. Now, of course, he's best-known for the

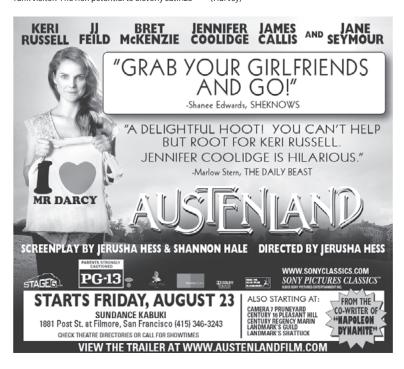
influential, eloquent books he's penned since his 1982 incarceration, and for the worldwide activists who're either convinced of his innocence or believe he didn't receive a fair trial (or both). All worthy of further investigation, but *Long* Distance Revolutionary is overlong, fawning, and relentlessly one-sided — ultimately, a tire-some combination. (2:00) *Roxie*. (Eddy) The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones Lily Collins stars as a teen who discovers her super-natural powers in this adaptation of Cassandra Clare's YA fantasy novel. (2:00) Shattuck. The World's End The final film in Edgar Wright's "Blood and Ice Cream Trilogy" finally arrives, and the TL:DR version is that while it's not as good as 2004's sublime zombie rom-com Shaun of the Dead, it's better than 2007's cops vs. serial killers yarn Hot Fuzz. That said, it's still funnier than anything else in theaters

lately. Simon Pegg returns to star and co-write (with Wright); this time, the script's sinister bugaboo is an invasion of body snatchers though (as usual) the conflict is really about the perils of refusing to actually become an adult, the even-greater perils of becoming a *boring* adult, and the importance of male friendships. Pegg plays rumpled fuck-up Gary, determined to reunite with the best friends he's long since alienated for one more crack at their hometown's "alcoholic mile," a pub crawl that ends at the titular beer joint. The easy chemistry between Pegg and the rest of the cast (Nick Frost, Paddy Considine, Martin Freeman, and Eddie Marsan elevates what's essentially a predictable "one crazy night" tale, with a killer soundtrack of 1990s tunes, slang you'll adopt for your own posse ("Let's Boo-Boo!"), and enough hilarious fight scenes to challenge This is the End to a bro-down of apocalyptic proportions. (1:49)

You're Next The hit of the 2011 Toronto Film $Festival's \ midnight \ section -- \ and \ one \ that's$ taken its sweet time getting to theaters — indie horror specialist (2010's A Horrible Way to Die, 2007's Pop Skull, 2012's V/H/S) Adam Wingard's feature isn't really much more than a gussied-up slasher. But it's got vigor, and violence, to spare. An already uncomfortable anniversary reunion for the wealthy Davison clan plus their children's spouses gets a lot more so when dinner is interrupted by an arrow that sails through a window, right into someone's flesh. Immediately a full on siege commences, with family members reacting with various degrees of panic, selfishness. and ingenuity, while an unknown number of animal-masked assailants prowl outside (and sometimes inside). Clearly fun for its all-star cast and crew of mumblecore-indie horror staples, yet preferring gallows humor to wink-wink camp, it's a (very) bloody good ride. (1:36) (Harvey)

ONGOING

Adjust Your Tracking: The Untold Story of the VHS Collector Dan M. Kinem and Levi Peretic's documentary peeks into the tidy lairs of borderline hoarders (all horror and genre fans) who oversee their massive VHS collections with a mixture of pride, good-natured defensiveness, and culty spirit. A few celebrities drop by (Troma's Lloyd Kaufman admits he prefers DVDs "because of the extras"), but this is mostly regular-dude turf, with a home-video history lesson ("Blockbuster ruined it for everybody") mixed into the nostalgia. High points include extended discussions of "VHS covers that lie to you," as in, when box artwork promises wonders that aren't actually in the film; and of Tales from the Quadead Zone, a (terrible) film so exquisitely rare it sparked an eBay bidding war and inspired at least one tattoo. (1:24) Balboa. (Eddy) **Drug War** The sleek, gloomy *Drug War* is the latest from Hong Kong's Johnnie To — a director who needs no introduction for fans of his prolific output (2001's Fulltime Killer, 2005's Election, 2006's Exiled, 2009's Vengeance). Unlike To's previous crime dramas Drug War was shot in mainland China, where heavy-handed censors rule. According to the film's press notes, To decided "nobody will disagree with the idea of arresting drug dealers," particularly in a country fond of imposing death sentences for drug-related offenses. The tactic appears





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FILM LISTINGS

vicious shootouts — even as it subtly points out China's surveillance-state abundance of CCTV cameras, and examines how just far criminals will go to avoid those draconian punishments. Timmy Choi (Louis Koo), for one, is terrified of execution. Busted for manufacturing meth after his factory explodes, Timmy runs up against Captain Zhang (Sun Honglei), a no-nonsense drug cop who reluctantly takes on a new informant with the goal of busting a kingpin higher up the cartel's chain of command. Timmy's a slippery character whose motivations remain murky right up until the last act; it's all Zhang can do to keep up, which he does for the most part. In one incredible sequence, the cop pretends to be Chang, a taciturn junkie accompanying Timmy for a meeting with the flashy "Haha, named for his staccato laugh. With a quick wardrobe change and seconds to spare, Zhang then morphs into Haha to meet with the real Chang. In the process, tiny cameras are deployed. drugs are snorted, and loyalties are stretched razor-thin. It's a tour de force - vet remarkably unforced — moment for both actor and director. (1:45) Metreon. (Eddy) Jobs With the upcoming Aaron Sorkin adapta-

tion of Walter Isaacson's biography nipping at its

CONTINUES ON PAGE 44 >>

FIRST RUN VENUES

The following is contact information for Bay Area first-run theaters.

Balboa 38th Ave/Balboa. 221-8184, www.balboamovies.com

Bridge Geary/Blake. 267-4893.

Century Plaza Noor off El Camino, South SF. (650) 742-9200.

Century 20 Junipero Serra/John Daly, Daly City. (650) 994-7469.

Clay Fillmore/Clay. 267-4893.

Embarcadero 1 Embarcadero Center, promenade level. 267-4893. Theater closed for renovations until November 2013.

Empire West Portal/Vicente. 661-2539.

Four Star Clement/23rd Ave. 666-3488.

Marina 2149 Chestnut.

www.Intsf.com/marina theatre

Metreon Fourth St/Mission, (800) FANDANGO.

New People Cinema 1746 Post. www.newneonleworld.com

1000 Van Ness 1000 Van Ness. (800) 231-3307.

Opera Plaza Van Ness/Golden Gate. 267-4893. Presidio 2340 Chestnut. 776-2388.



SF Center Mission between Fourth and Fifth Sts. 538-8422

Stonestown 19th Ave/Winston 221-8182

Sundance Kabuki Cinema Post/Fillmore.

Vogue Sacramento/Presidio. 221-8183.

BAY AREA

Albany 1115 Solano, Albany. (510) 464-5980 AMC Bay Street 16 5614 Shellmound, Emeryville, (510) 457-4262

California Kittredge/Shattuck, Berk

(510) 464-5980

Cerrito 10070 San Pablo, El Cerrito. (510) 972-9102.

Emery Bay 6330 Christie, Emeryville (510) 420-0107.

Grand Lake 3200 Grand, Oakl. (510) 452-3556. Jack London Stadium 100 Washington, Jack London Square, Oakl. (510) 433-1320.

Magick Lantern 125 Park Place, Point Richmond. (510) 234-1404.

New Parkway 474 24th St, Oakl. (510) 658-7900. Piedmont Piedmont/41st St, Oakl. (510) 464-5980.

Rialto Cinemas Elmwood 2966 College Ave. at Ashby, Berk. (510) 433-9730.

Shattuck Cinemas 2230 Shattuck, Berk.

UA Berkeley 2274 Shattuck, Berk. (510) 843-1487. **SFBG**

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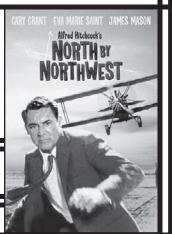
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FILM LISTINGS

heels, Jobs feels like a quickie — true to Silicon Valley form, someone realized that the first to ship can end up defining the market. But as this independent biopic goes for each easy cliché and facile cinematic device, you can practically hear Steve Jobs himself spinning in the ether somewhere. Ashton Kutcher as Jobs lectures us over and over again about the virtues of quality product, but little seemed to have penetrated director Joshua Michael Stern as he distracts with a schmaltzy score (he should have stuck to Bob Dylan, Joe Walsh, and era-defining AOR), and relies on corny slow-motion to dramatize the passing of a circuit board. The fact that Kutcher might be the best thing here — he clearly throws himself into impersonating the Apple icon, from his intense, upward-glancing glare to his hand gestures — says a bit about the film itself, as it coasts on its self-made man-captain of enterprise narrative arc. Dispensing with much about

the man Jobs became outside of Apple, apart from a few nods to his unsavory neglect of friends and offspring, and simply never acknowledging his work at, say, Pixar, Jobs, in the end, comes off as a lengthy infomercial for the Cupertino heavyweight. (2:02) 1000 Van Ness, SF Center, Sundance Kabuki. (Chun) Kick-Ass 2 Even an ass-kicking subversive take on superherodom runs the risk of getting its rump tested, toasted, roasted - and found wanting. Too bad the exhilaratingly smarty-pants, somewhat mean-spirited Kick-Ass (2010), the brighter spot in a year of superhero-questioning flicks (see also Super), has gotten sucker-punched in all the most predictable ways in its latest incarnation. Dave, aka Kick-Ass (Aaron Taylor-Johnson), and Mindy, otherwise known as Hit-Girl (Chloë Grace Moretz), are only half-heartedly attempt ing to live normal lives: they're training on the sly, mostly because Mindy's new guardian, Detective Marcus Williams (Morris Chestnut), is determined to restore her childhood. Little does

he realize that Mindy only comes alive when she pretends she's battling ninjas at cheerleader tryouts — or is giving her skills a workout by unhanding, literally and gleefully, a robber. Kick-Ass is a little unnerved by her semi-psy-chotic enthusiasm for crushing bad guys, but he's crushing, too, on Mindy, until Marcus catches her in the Hit-Girl act and grounds her in real life, where she has to deal with some really nasty characters: the most popular girls in school. So Kick-Ass hooks up with a motley team of would-be heroes inspired by his example, led Colonel Stars and Stripes (an almost unrecognizable Jim Carrey), while old frenemy Chris, aka Red Mist (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) begins to find his real calling — as a supervillain he dubs the Motherfucker — and starts to assemble his own gang of baddies. Unlike the first movie, which passed the whip-smart wisecracks around equally, Mintz-Plasse and enabler-bodyguard Javier (John Leguizamo) get most of the choice lines here. Otherwise, the vigilante action gets pretty grimly routine, in a roof-battling, punchem-up kind of way. A romance seems to be budding between our two young superfriends, but let's skip part three — I'd rather read about it in the funny pages. (1:43) 1000 Van Ness, SF Center, (Chun)

Portrait of Jason Nearly half a century ago, Shirley Clarke's documentary "portrait" of one rather flaming real-life personality — not just gay, but African American, too — seemed unprecedentedly exotic. The latest in Milestone Films' "Project Shirley" series of restored Clarke re-releases, *Portrait of Jason* can't be experienced that way now. Any surviving exoticism is now related to the subject's defining a certain pre Stonewall camp persona, and the movie's reflecting a 1960s cinema vérité style of which its director was a major proponent. The setup couldn't be simpler: we spend 12 hours in the company of Jason Holliday, née Aaron Payne. Or rather, Clarke and her then-partner, actor Carl Lee, spend those hours — from 9 pm to 9 am - with Jason, while we get a 107-minute distillation. Nattily attired, waving a cigarette around while downing an epic lineup of cocktails, Jason is a natural performer who relishes this filmic showcase as "my moment." No matter what, he says, he will now "have one beautiful something that is my own." At first Clarke and Lee simply let him riff, prompting him to speak calculated outrages they've probably already heard. ("What do you do for a living, Jason?" "I'm a ... I'm a stone whore. And I'm not ashamed of it.") He's indeed the life of his own party — increasingly smashed as wee hours encroach in Clarke's Chelsea Hotel room — but there's a certain desperation to this act that she and particularly Lee eventually pounce on. "Nervous and guilty and simple as I am," Jason's braggadocio camouflages a self-loathing he's just as willing to expose. When actual tears-of-a-clown are shed the filmmakers seem cruel. Still, the "portrait" is incomplete — Clarke and Lee don't press their subject to explicate the past spousal abuse, suicide attempt, and "nuthouse" and jail stays he drops into conversation as casually as he mentions a friendship with Miles Davis. (1:47)



REP CLOCK

Schedules are for Wed/21-Tue/27 except where noted. Director and year are given when available. Double and triple features marked with a •. All times pm unless otherwise specified.

ALLEY CAT BOOKS AND GALLERY 3036 24th St, SF; (415) 824-1761. Free (limited seating). "Cat's Eye presents:" "Digital Daydreams: New Motion Pictures by Mike Kuchar," Thu, 8.

ARTISTS' TELEVISION ACCESS 992 Valencia, SF; www.atasite.org. \$6-10. "Periwinkle Cinema: Sound and Image," film collages with live sound accompaniment, Wed, 7. "Gaze Film Series #5: Transgressions," independent film and video made by women, Sat, 8. "Noble Gases: The Experimental Film Festival Portland presents Director's Picks," Sun, 7:30.

CASTRO 429 Castro, SF; (415) 621-6120, www castrotheatre.com. •Hud (Ritt, 1963), Wed, 2:30, 7, and Midnight Cowboy (Schlesinger, 1969), Wed, 4:45, 9:05. •Blue Velvet (Lynch, 1986), Thu, 2:45, 7, and Neighbors (Avildsen, 1981), Thu, 5, 9:15. •Jesus Christ Superstar (Jewison, 1973), Fri, 7 (40th anniversary screening; Q&A with Ted "Jesus" Neeley at 6:30), and **Life of Brian** (Jones, 1979), Fri, 9:15. "Peaches Christ presents: Night of 1,000 Showgirls:" Showgirls (Verhoeven, 1995), Sat, 8. With pre-show entertainment and special guests; advance tickets (\$25-45) at www. peacheschrist.com. •The Godfather Part II (Coppola, 1974), Sun, 12:30, 7:30, and Heat (Mann, 1995), Sun, 4:20. The Heat (Feig, 2013). Tue. 2. 4:40. 7. 9:30

CHRISTOPHER B. SMITH RAFAEL FILM CENTER 1118 Fourth St. San Rafael: (415) 454-1222, www.cafilm.org. \$6.50-\$10.75. The Act of Killing (Oppenheimer, 2012), call for dates and times. Hannah Arendt (von Trotta, 2012), call for dates and times. The Hunt (Vinterberg, 2012), call for dates and times. **20 Feet From Stardom** (Neville, 2013), call for dates and times. **Ain't Them Bodies Saints** (Lowery, 2013), Aug 23-29, call for times. **Ray** Harryhausen: Special Effects Titan (Penso 2012) Sun 7 Évocateur: The Morton Downey Jr. Movie (Kramer, Miller, and Newberger, 2012), Mon, 7:15.

CLAY 2261 Fillmore, SF; www.landmarkthe atres.com. \$10. "Midnight Movies:" **Fight Club** (Fincher, 1999), Fri-Sat, midnight.

JACK LONDON SQUARE Market lawn, Harrison at Water, Oakl; www.jacklondonsquare.com. Free. The Goonies (Donner, 1985), Thu, sun-

PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE 2575 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-5249, bampfa.berkeley.edu. \$5.50-9.50. "The Hitchcock 9: Rare Silents Restored:" The Pleasure Garden (1926), Wed. 7: Blackmail (1929), Fri, 7; Downhill (1927), Sat, 6:15. "Yang Fudong's Cinematic Influences:"

An Estranged Paradise (Yang, 2002), Thu, 7. "Tales of Love: The Enchanted World of Jacques Demy:" **The Pied Piper** (Demy, 1972), Fri, 8:35; Three Seats for the 26th (Demy, 1988), Sat, 8:20. "Castles in the Sky: Masterful Anime from Studio Ghibli:" My Neighbor Totoro (Miyazaki, 1988), Sun, 1 and 3; Nausicaã of the Valley of the Wind (Miyazaki, 1984),

ROXIE 3117 and 3125 16th St, SF; (415) 863-1087, www.roxie.com. \$6.50-11. The Canyons (Schrader, 2013), Wed-Thu, 9. Frances Ha (Baumbach, 2013), Wed-Thu, 9:15. Portrait of Jason (Clarke, 1967), Wed-Thu, 7. Prince Avalanche (Green, 2013), Wed-Thu, 7. Mumia: Long Distance Revolutionary (Vittoria, 2013), Aug 23-29, 6:45, 9. **SFBG**





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OPINION

FILM BY ZACHARY HEINZERLING

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LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352902-00. The following is doing business as NORTH VENTURES. The business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 08/07/13. This statement was signed by Donally Harrison in CA. This statement was filed by Guillermo Sandoval, Deputy County Clerk, on August 7, 2013. L#00122. Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 14, 21, 28 and September 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352882-00. The following is

doing business as: O.T. International Fashions and Designs. The business is conducted by co-partners. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 08/06/13. This statement was signed by Uyen Quynh The Tran in CA. This statement was filed by Maribel Jaldon, Deputy County Clerk, on August 6, 2013. L#00119 Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 14, 21, 28 and September 4, 2013. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352975-00. The following is doing business as MIGHTY HERTZ. The business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 08/12/13. This statement was signed by Jason Kwan in CA. This statement was filed by Jennifer Wong, Deputy County Clerk, on August 12, 2013. L#00121 Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 14, 21, 28 and September 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352748-00. The following is doing business as CAPITAL RESTAURANT. The business is conducted by a corporation Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 07/31/13. This statement was signed by Samantha Lo in CA. This statement was filed by Melissa Ortiz, Deputy County Clerk, on July 31, 2013. L#00117. Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 14, 21, 28 and September 4, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352695-00. The following is doing business as People+. The business is conducted by a corporation. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 7/10/13. This statement was signed by Peter R. Berger II in CA. This statement was filed by Maribel Jaldon, Deputy County Clerk, on July 29, 2013. L#00114; Publication: SF Bay Guardian, Dates: August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352424-00. The following is doing business as INGLESIDE PIZZA. The business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 07/16/13. This statement was signed by Oliver Gialogo in CA. This statement was filed by Maribel Jaldon, Deputy County Clerk, on July 16, 2013, L#00115 Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILED NO. A-0352800-00. The following is doing business as SCULPTURE SALON S.F. The business is conducted by an individual. Registrant commenced business under the above-listed fictitious business name on: 08/02/13. This statement was signed by Maria Florencia Aleman in CA. This statement was filed by Melissa Ortiz, Deputy County Clerk, on August 2, 2013. L#00116 Publication: SF Bay Guardian. Dates: August 7, 14, 21, 28, 2013.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCO-HOLIC BEVERAGES. Date of Filing Application: August 6, 2013. To Whom It May Concern: The name of the applicant is: IEKATERINA BARKALISKAS. The applicant listed above is applying to The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 3047 MISSION ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110, Type of Licenses Applied for: 41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE -EATING PLACE, L#00118; Publication Date: August 14, 21, 28, 2013.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME. CASE NUMBER: CNC-13-549703. SUPERIOR COURT, 400 McAllister St. San Francisco, CA 94102, PETITION OF Emily Suzanne Hall & Donald Craig Campbell for change of name. TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS: Petitioner Emily Suzanne Hall filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Present Name: Winston Blake Campbell. Proposed Name: Winston Blake Hall-Campbell. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. NOTICE OF HEARING Date: 10/08/2013. Time: 9:00 AM, Room 514. Signed by Donald Sullivan, Presiding Judge of Superior Court on August 8, 2013. L#00120, Publication dates: August 14, 21, 28 and September 4, 2013.

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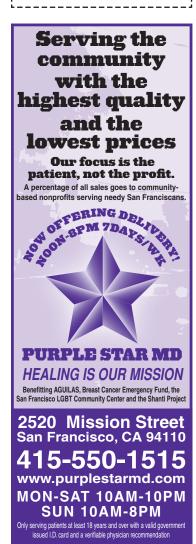
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